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Carried and section in Modical Jean pal

the Bernsen Medical Journal



Sooty in sex scandal

Page 3



WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 1996

WEATHER: Cloudy with showers

Sir John Cassells, director of

Education, set up in 1991 to re-

view education and training,

said a third of the nation's

youth was being failed; leaving

none at all,

possible.

with poor qualifications, or

happening is that schools have

been responding to the publi-

cation of tables by wanting

as many people to pass as

spent on getting pupils through,

"If more teacher time is

"What seems to have been

Pupils dumped in exam race

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

the centres are the library Thousands of pupils have been reached a from the high. withdrawn from GCSE exams this year, amid fears that schools are holding back weak candidates to boost their league table scores. This new-style selection is expected to have without qualifications this sumhelped raise the GCSE pass velopment which rate, due to be announced today, by more than one per-

tence for comp hopefular has learned. centage point, The Independent Almost 54 per cent of exam grant of the second light apers are expected to be grade or above this year, but it seems that up to 50,000 pupils have never been entered at all

Thousands excluded from GCSEs as schools chase league targets year. Added to those who failed, trend as proof that increased never completed the coursework or did not turn up for the exams, the figures show that more than 90,000 pupils - more than one in seven - left school

The revelation will raise new questions about Britain's ability to compete with other industrialised nations, such as Germany and Japan, where most pupils stay on at school longer and leave better quali-fied.

Last night opposition politi-- at least 11,500 more than last cians angrily condemned the

sters on the scrap-heap.

mocrats' education spokesman, said weaker candidates were being kept out of the exam room. "Too many young peoples' fu-tures are being sacrificed on the altar of Tory league tables and market forces in education. Fear of these tables is leaving

less able pupils in a class of their

Don Foster, the Liberal De-

own - as far away from the exam halls as possible," he said. There are almost 18,000 extra 16 year-olds in the system

this year because of a rise in the 3 per cent rise in pupil numbers, the number of exam entries has gone up by just 1 per cent, or about 6,300 candidates.

Figures compiled by the

competition in the education birth rate, taking the total to alleft school without qualifications, system was leaving many young most 600,000. But despite the tions. The disappearance of about 1,500 pupils from the system this year suggests that that proportion is likely to rise dra-

> David Blunkett, Labour's ed-Labour Party show that in re- ucation spokesman, said he

How to get a university place Almost 220,000 students have now been awarded university places for this Autumn, the Universities and Colleges Admis

able through cleaning are in section two of today's Independent

sions Service, Ucas, said last night. That left 70,000 places still available, with 108,000 people eligible to apply for them officials confirmed. The latest official Ucas listings of places avail

was determined to see all pupils reaching at least GCSE level by is Britain's most pressing educational problem. the age of 18. the National Commission on

Without essential qualifications, these young people will find it increasingly difficult to find lasting work or to move on to further qualifications later in life," he said.

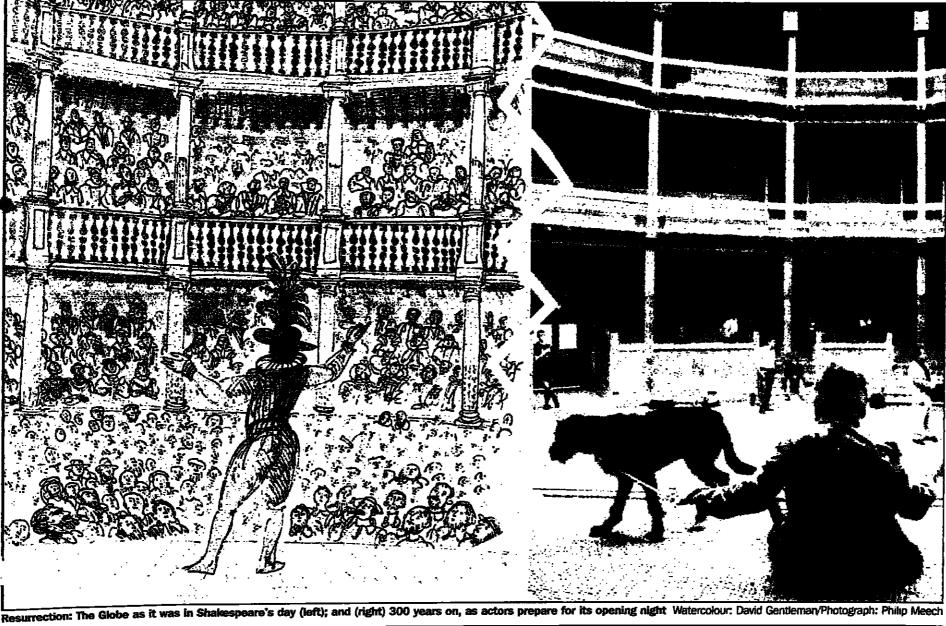
League tables, introduced nationally in 1993, show the proportion of pupils gaining five or more A-C grades at GCSE rising annually, and now standing at 43.5 per cent.

But they tend to ignore the long tail of underachievement which many commentators feel the less likely pupils don't get as much," he said. Sir John claimed that, in in-

ner-city areas, many schools had such poor intakes that they were really secondary moderns rather than comprehensives. In those same areas, many parents were not fully committed to education.

There are other possible explanations for the drop in examentries, but none adequately explains the scale of the phe-nomenon. About 100 schools out of 4,000 have taken vocational qualifications for the first time this summer, and others may have decided to reduce the GCSEs taken by each pupil.

GCSE: RIP, page 12



Kremlin at war over Chechen conflict

PHIL REEVES Moscow

Top Russian officials were yesterday fighting over who is in charge of resolving the Chechen war while President Boris Yeltsin - long rumonred to be ill - took off for what his aides insisted was a break in the country. His weakness at such after his two heart attacks last a crucial moment has created a dangerous power vacuum at the

heart of the Kremlin. swept through Moscow, the

QUICKLY

Children in squalor

Tory 'arrogance'

Home Secretary Jack Straw

said yesterday.

clock ticked towards tomor- they have denied a report yesrow's deadline, when the Russian acting commander in the war zone says he will start bombarding Grozny in order to

wrest back control of the city.
Aides to President Yeltsin have dismissed media reports that Mr Yeltsin has had another bout of cardiac trouble, year. They have dismissed a Time magazine article which said the Kremlin is considering

terday by Moscow's Ekho Moskvy radio station, which alleged he had been in a special cardiological centre for the last five days

But if he is not ill - and the Russian north-west is baffling. He left behind a furious dispute between Alexander Lebed, head of the Security Council. who is expected to go to Chechnya today, and hardliners with-

the belief that the conflict can be settled by force. He also left behind an unfolding tragedy in Grozny, where tens of thou-sands of refugees were fleeing the city, terrified by the prospect

of a fresh Russian onslaught. signs are that he is - his deci-sion to set off on holiday in the a fortnight after Mr Yeltsin's inauguration and bodes ill for his new government. Beneath the detail of the disputes between his entourage lies a struggle for power caused by the knowledge that the ailing President may not

term. Mr Lebed has made no secret of his presidential ambi-

Yesterday, in another out-burst, Mr Lebed issued a statement via the Security Council that, in effect, suggested elcments in the Kremlin were trying to scupper his recent peace efforts by issuing instructions on the President's behalf, without consulting him. The orders were that he, as presidential envoy to the war zone, should ensure that the Chechen separatists holding

entered further talks. The Security Council's statement warned of heavy losses among Russian troops, and "massive

civilian casualties. As Mr Lebed has taken a conciliatory approach to Chechnya, the policy appeared to be a victory for the government's hawks. It came only two days after he publicly demanded the sacking of the Interior minister, Anatoly Kulikov, for mishandling the war.

Chechen crisis, page 8

CONTENTS

BUSINESS & CITY ... 15-19

COMMENT 11-13

Section 1

Gentlemen of Verona hope to avoid a tempest MARIANNE MACDONALD pared." Plastic macs will be on

Arts Correspondent

After more than 40 years of dreaming, planning, fund-raising and laborious construction. tonight's opening night at Shakespeare's Globe is under threat from a typically English source - the weather.

Yesterday, staff at the open-Bank were scanning the skies first audience in its prologue

Much of the replica of the famous "wooden O" on London's South Bank is as open to the elements as it would have been in the 16th century - and with kwering clouds threatening a break in the fine weather, the 500 "groundlings" who will stand during the performance risk a wetting.

"I am like a fisherman, the skies," the artistic director Mark Rylance told a press conference. But we are quite pre-

sale in the Globe shop at £2 a time, and theatre-goers will be free to rush out to buy one at the first sign of rain - even while the play is going on. The story of Shakespeare's

Globe is the story of the American film director Sam Wanamaker, father of actress Zoe Wanamaker, who began his air theatre on London's South campaign to build the theatre after visiting the site of the origauxiously as thunderstorms inal and discovering it was threatened to drench its sell-out marked only by a brass plate on a brewery wall.

He established the Globe

Playhouse Trust site in 1949, 200 vards away from the first Globe. which burned down in 1613. But a decades-long battle for funds followed, solved at last by a lottery grant.

For Ms Wanamaker in particular the triumph of his vision will be bitter-sweet. Her father died in December 1993, shortly after construction started But watching the Thomes, watching as Keith Baxter remarked at his memorial service: "Like Sir Galahad he saw a glimpse of his dream before he died."

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While confusion and intrigue sending him to a Swiss clinic for be well enough to complete his Grozny withdrew from their double by-pass surgery. And in the government who ching to emonic duo given lordly reward

ANTHONY BEVINS

Four children, all aged four years or vounger, have been found unattended in a fithy Political Editor house used as a drinking den in John Major gave his blessing to north Belfast, Neighbours told the "demon Blair" advertising of seeing a small child clamcampaign last night, rewarding the two men responsible for its bering out of a window to eat

bread left for birds. Page 3 creation with seats in the Lords. The midnight announcement of life peerages for advertising The Tory claim to be the only wizard Maurice Saatchi and party that can be trusted to de-Tory public relations guru Pefend the constitution has been ter Gummer was immediately blown apart by ministers' "highdenounced by Labour. handed and arrogant" treatment of EU legislation, shadow

Frontbencher Frank Dobson said: "Awarding peerages to Peter Gummer and Maurice Saatchi takes the Tory party and the peerage system to new depths. But no coronets and ermine will cover up Maurice Saatchi and Peter Gummer's role in dragging British politics lower than the gutter. When they're deciding which title to ger" campaign climaxed with

take, one of them will be Lord of the Lies.

They've already admitted that it's a lie to portray Tony Blair as the devil incarnate. They've already admitted their object was to make that image of him the principal image of the election campaign. They are proud to peddle lies. This announcement confirms that John Major has given his personal seal of approval for the most nega-

tive election campaigning ever." Mr Saatchi is on holiday, but a spokesman for M&C Saatchi replied: "This is a disgusting slur on a man who has made the British advertising industry respected throughout the world, and created thousands of jobs." While the peerages would have been offered well before

the "New Labour, New Dan-

the satanic portrayal of Tony Blair, the timing of the announcement was entirely in the gift of the Prime Minister. It can be taken as his calculated re-

sponse to those urging a retreat. The peerages for Mr Saatchi and Mr Gummer, brother of the Environment Secretary, were included in a list of 14 "working peers" - an unusually balanced six Tory, six Labour and two Liberal Democrat candidates. The Tory list included two

women from the party machine -Joyce Anelay and Hazel By-ford; Sir Ian Maclaurin, chairman of Tesco: and John Taylor. the barrister who unsuccessfully contested Cheltenham - and Tory racism - in the last election. He will be the only Afro-Caribbean Tory in the Lords.

two women: Meta Ramsay, a for-

Smith, and Elizabeth Symons, leader of the Association of First Division Civil Servants. Mr Blair also nominated Swrai Paul, chairman of the Caparo iron and steel group, which has donated £113,000 to Labour since 1993, plus £460,000 a year to charity, Sir Richard Rogers architect of the Pompidou Centre in Paris, and the Lloyd's of London building, David Currie,

general secretary.
Paddy Ashdown has not only nominated one of his own par-QC, president of the Welsh John Alderdice, leader of the Al-The Labour peers include

CROSSWORD20 **GAZETTE**14 professor of economics at the London Business School; and Larry Whitty, Labour's former

stalwarts, Martin Thomas Liberal Democrats, but also liance Party of Northern Ireland. Plum signings, page 4

LEADING ARTICLES 11 LETTERS 11 **SHARES** 19 UNIT TRUSTS 15 CROSSWORD26 EDINBURGH 10,11 LISTINGS 24,25 MONEY 24,25 RADIO27 TELEVISION28 THEATRE 6,7

Potted history of a love for tea

Everything stops for tea - even time itself, apparently. The Robert Adam-designed state rooms of Syon House, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland, have become the venue for a celebration of Georgian and Regency Britain's passion for the cup that cheers without intoxicating.

in a scene to stir a tea-lover's heart the exhibition, which opens today, features a table set for two as it would have been in the late 18th Century, with costumed mannequins on hand to "take tea".

Silver, china, documents and tea-drinking memorabilia from the Northumberland family archives are in the exhibition, as are a group of seven historic tea pots from the Norwich Castle Museum collection.

There is also material from

the archives of Twinings, the 290-year-old tea blending company.
The exhibition is being

held in association with



Cup of joy: The hands of Sam Twining, of the 290-year-old tea blenders Twinings, holding one of the exhibition's cups

The stifling of democracy: Prime Minister allows Parliament to be by-passed, says Straw

EU laws 'blocked by arrogance'

ANTHONY BEVINS and JOHN LICHFIELD

The Tory claim to be the only party that can be trusted to de-fend the constitution has been blown apart by ministers' "highhanded and arrogant" treatment of European Union legislation, shadow Home Sec-

retary Jack Straw said yesterday. Commenting on vesterday's exclusive report, in The Independent, of the way in which Whitehall and Brussels had hindered and over-ridden the democratic checks of Westminster, Mr Straw blamed John Major and his ministers.

The scrutiny of legislation ought to be one of Parliament's most important functions," he

But the Prime Minister and

his colleagues are allowing Parliament to be by-passed. This gives the lie to the claim that they are 'batting for Britain' in

"It also blows apart Mr Major's claim that he is the only one that can be trusted with the con-Mr Straw said the Prime

Minister had made a June speech, in which he had boasted about the "new procedures" that had been introduced for the scrutiny of European legislation. The Labour frontbencher

said there had been no mention in the Major speech of how the Commons European Legislation Committee was being asked to examine directives and regulations without official texts; of how it was being forced



replies to requests for information from Whitehall; of how ministers were over-riding Westminster blocks on legisla-

Jack Straw: Major 'ignorant'

dresses - or even non-existent select committees.

"Mr Major shows stunning ignorance of his own Government's practice on European legislation," Mr Straw said. "His Government is showing

a high-handed and arrogant approach to this matter, with little regard for Parliament's proper role as a check on the

As for Whitehall's "lackadaisical" attitude towards the select committee, Mr Straw said: "The administrative machinery of Whitehall is one of the most efficient in Europe.

"The British civil service is capable of Rolls Royce adminis. tration, and if things are going tion; and how Whitehall de-partments were repeatedly assume that officials are taking sending material to wrong ad-their lead from ministers. The were then provided to member

ministers are setting the tone for the behaviour of their depart-

Mr Straw said that Jimmy Hood, the Labour chairman of the European Legislation Committee, and his all-party colleagues, were working very hard, but their efforts were being thwarted by Brussels and Whitehall. "This is not the fault of the Commons: the Government has all the power; the procedure is dominated by ministers."

The European Commission denied there was any systematic problem with the publication of islegislative proposals in English. EU officials said that in most cases the official English texts were available within a few

governments, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. It was the job of member governments to pass the documents on to its own institutions.

Foreign Office sources also said that the great majority of EU documents were reaching the committee promptly. The sources said that there had been delays in some cases (often when there was a legal-linguistic dispute about the text). As a result, the Government was pushing for a minimum period

for publication. : ; Meanwhile, the committee will retaliate when the Commons returns from its summer break on 14 October - by refusing to approve any legislation that is delivered without an of-

The mistake had happened

because the office of the UK

Permanent Representative in

Brussels had received its in-

structions in a phone call with

the Foreign Office. "Further in-

vestigation suggested that two

fused: that on integrated pol-

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

industrial unrest spread to more train operating companies and now affects up to 18,000 employees throughout most of the old British Rail network. Meanwhile, at London Underground, some 1,800 drivers belonging to the Aslef union are today expected to accept a peace formula to end a campaign of 24-hour stoppages which has brought travel chaos to the capital. Their 900 colleagues in the RMT transport union, however, are predicted to reject the deal and may press ahead with a scheduled stoppage on Friday, Barrie Clement

Mandy Allwood, the 31-year-old woman who is expecting octuplets, will continue to be treated by Professor Kyprios Nicolaides, a leading specialist in multiple births

and foetal reduction, it emerged last night.

Solihull Health Authority, which is responsible for her care, has reversed its decision not to pay for Ms Allwood's specialist treatment in London, in the interests of her health and that of her babies. The health authority had argued that equivalent care, at less cost, was available in Birmingham for Ms Allwood, who has signed a six-figure deal with the News of the World for her story. Liz Hunt

he Government will unveil new pollution standards today amid concern over the growing impact of poor air standards on the nation's health. The Liberal Democrats claimed yesterday that the current "crisis" in the number of asthma sufferers was partly caused by air pollution and lack of concerted Government action.

Their claims came after a weekend of the worst smug

levels in the country this year. Michael Streeter

A loyalist parade has been banned by police from going through the Catholic Lower Ormeau district of south Belfast on Sunday. The area has in recent years become a flashpoint area for marches, with local nationalist residents objecting to loyalists marching through the district.

The march, organised by the Royal Black Preceptory, is one of the last of the marching season. Several other Royal Black Preceptory.

Black Preceptory parades are planned for this weekend, including one in the south Londonderry village of Bellaghy where marchers and protesters were involved in a 19-hour standoff at an Apprentice Boys church parade eight days ago. David McEntrick

DNA samples taken from five teenage boys on the same French school trip as murdered teenager Caroline Dickinson proved negative, police said yesterday. Caroline was raped and murdered during a school trip to the town of Pleine-Fougeres, Britany, on 18 July. The DNA tests from the boys were taken after five French detectives arrived in Lannceston, Cornwall, to continue the inquiry with the help of 20 Devon and Cornwall officers.

The parents of missing youngsters Jodi and Tom Loughlin may face a lifetime of uncertainty over their children's fate. Attempts to find Jodi, six, and her four-year old brother, who went missing from Holme beach near
Hunstanton, Norfolk, on Sunday, had proved fruitjess last
night. Police were increasingly afraid that the children were
swept out to sea after excitedly running into the start of their holiday. Local tidal experts said there was a
good chance that the bodies might never be found.

A law firm is to fight for compensation for people who claim serious side-effects from the anti-malarial drug, Lariang-Bristol-based-Lawrence Tucketts said it had been awarded an exclusive legal aid contract to pursue a claim against Swiss pharmaceutical giants Hoffman La Roche. It had been contacted by around 500 prospective litigants.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

BACK ISSUES

ny Gummer gave short notice over legislation

The MPs who vet European legislation on behalf of the Commons were given only two days' notice when John Gummer. the Secretary of State for the Environment, needed them to lift a block on four proposals last

Mr Gummer's request was all the more surprising because he had already kept the same MPs waiting 14 months for

Weather forecast

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

HIGH TIDES

12.05 11.5 11.13 6.7

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

...20.10 to ...20.20 to ...20.20 to

16.28

some information they had requested on one of the pieces of were due to meet to enact the and efficiency, allowing one of quested on one of the pieces of

Brussels legislation. But Mr Gummer was in a hurry. The European Legisla-tion Committee had not given essential scrutiny clearance to

a note on 20 June last year, say-

four items on 22 June. According to Westminster

rules. Mr Gummer should not agree to legislation without that essential clearance - a dethe proposals, but he sent them mocratic fail-safe.

Given the timetable, the

serve had been lifted "by mis-take". The proposal had been enacted by the Council of Min-**Anthony Bevins** on environment proposals MPs were asked to approve without seeing isters on 27 November

> Mr Gummer's ministers to appear and give oral evidence the next day, 21 June. In breach of other rules, there was no official text for three of the proposals; MPs were ex-

pected to clear them without "The remaining proposal had been held up by us, awaiting fur-ther information from the de-

partment, which at that time had been outstanding for no less than 14 months," the committee şays. Three of the proposals were subsequently cleared, but the Commons block remained on an important draft directive on

tion and control. The agreed position of the council of ministers on that di-

rective was circulated in French and efficiency, allowing one of on 27 June last year; the Enghish version was sent out by Brussels on 31 July.

But that document - vital to the scrutiny process - was not sent to the committee by the Department of the Environment for more than two draft directives had been conmonths. It was received by the committee on 13 October.

The legislation was again examined by the select committee on 1 November, and it decided the issue was important enough to be referred to the Commons for debate.

That debate, held by a European standing committee - not by the full Commons took place on 13 December. Before the debate had even

integrated pollution prevenstarted. MPs were told by one of Mr Gummer's most junior ministers that the scrutiny re-

lution prevention and control -IPPC - with that on polychlorinated biphenyls - PCB." Because of that incident, Tony Newton, Leader of the

Commons, told MPs that a new procedure had been introduced, adding that a Commons scrutiny block would in future only be lifted on written instructions from the Foreign Office.

One week after that promise was made last April, yet another Commons block was

New working practices 'are at root of stress'

BARRIE CLEMENT

Increasing stress among British workers is caused by harder work, longer hours and increased responsibilities rather than some vague psychological condition.

A study published yesterday found that nearly half of all employees are expected to put in extra hours, but only 30 per cent of it is paid. Nearly four out of ten re-

spondents to a survey conducted by the charitably-funded Global Futures organisation, have had their contracts changed since starting their job, usu-ally by an employer imposing higher targets and longer hours. Global Futures, which con-

ducts research into the impact of demographic and economic change on people's attitudes to work, found that most working people were resigned to an insecure future.

However trades unions do not seem to have been a beneficiary of the tougher regimes in the workplace. Interviewees ing and education among re- orientated pursuits.

turn to their manager to sort out work problems than a union representative.

Particularly worrying for the labour movement is that only two per cent of those under the age of 25 thought union representatives were worth consulting over employment difficulties. Less than a quarter of the younger employees were union members, compared with around half of the whole work-

Alan Hudson, author of the report, said stress at work was often treated as if it were a psychological condition with a life of its own. "Our findings shows there is

no mystery about the causes of stress. The dramatic changes in the workplace over the last decade have left people working longer and harder with more responsibilities. If people are ill, it is probably more to do with these extra pressures than

any psychological factors."
The survey found that there was a preoccupation with train-

were three times more likely to spondents and that attitudes to quality had undergone a "trans-

Many workplaces had intro-duced "customer-orientated" practices and "total quality management". Two-thirds of respondents said they were increasingly involved in decisionmaking, while 85 per cent said they felt personally responsible all the time for the work they

In 1,000 interviews with employees, conducted between October 1994 and February 1995, Mr Hudson found that nearly three-quarters of the workforce was now expected to cover for absent colleagues, although nearly half accept the re-

Fewer than one in ten people go out with workmates more than once a week. A third go out with them once every three months and more than one in ten never do. The author reports that leisure time has become much more individualised than it was, reflecting the growth in family





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Toddlers left in Belfast drinking den

Children found in 'unbelievable' squalor DAVID MCKITTRICK

reland Correspondent An inquiry has been launched into a case in which four children, all aged four years or younger, were found unattended in a filthy house used as a drinking den in north Belfast.

Conditions in the house shocked social workers and police, who had to mask their faces against the smell of urine and faeces. Neighbours told of seeing a four-year-old boy clam-bering out of a window to eat bread left for birds. He was also seen scavenging through discarded take-away food cartons.

The children's mother, who drunken youths, who were unis only 20-years-old, reported-ly had left them to attend a party 30 miles away. Neighbours who alerted the authorities to the plight of the children were commended for their sense of duty. The house is in the Ardoyne, one of Belfast's toughest districts, which is known as a blackspot both for unem-

ployment and for republican vi-The four children - three boys aged four, three, and 10 months, and their two-year-old sister - were taken into care early on Saturday morning. Police who went the house found four

related to the family.

Beer cans were scattered throughout the house and the garden. A baby's cot was soaked in urine, while more urine was found in milk bottles. The smell was described as "unbeliev-able." After the children were taken into care, local people moved in to clean the house, taking away 10 bags of rubbish.

The North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust said the family was known to staff and that out-of-hours social work services had responded promptly.

Locals said social workers had visited the house at least twice. One woman said: "The welfare was to blame. They made regular visits but they just seemed to have overlooked the problem. This is what made us so angry. When you think of what those poor children had to suffer - it's awful." "A local Sinn Fein councillor.

Bobby Lavery, has been to the house before, and it's going to happen again. It's not because the people working for welfare are bad people. There's not enough money being put in with Government cutbacks. Government cutbacks are causing this pain to the children."

Judy Kennedy, the health trust's programme manager of family and child-care, said the children were safe and well in care. She said neglect, unlike physical or sexual abuse, where there were obvious physical signs, was difficult to assess and could deteriorate very She added: "By law we are

required in the first instance to really try and support parents, and to view admission to care as something which only happens when there is really no other option." She said the trust would be examining the case and its treatment very



حكدًا من الاحلّ

Love puppet: Sooty joins other party animals as they dance the night away under the flashing lights of a from his many fans. He takes this in his stride

Sooty: of passion

After 44 years, Sooty has discovered sex. In next month's new series of Sooty & Co - the first since the glove-puppet bear was bought for £1.4m by a Japanese-owned bank – he forgets his water pistol and strut- his stuff with

senoritas in a Spanish disco.
In the same episode, his friend Soo the panda is spored by hunky restaurant-owner Antonio and driven off in his silver Lamborghini Espada. Only the mongrel Sweep fails to adapt to his chum Sooty's sophisticated new lifestyle; he gets a kiss from a senorita and

"It's all in the best possible taste," insisted Sooty's puppet-master, Matthew Corbett, who received £1.1m in the deal with the Guinness Mahon merchant bank in May.

But loyal, middle-aged Sooty fans, who grew up with the bear's childish tricks with Matthew's father, Harry, on BBC television in the Fifties and Sixties, will be wringing their bands - and calling Soo a bad lot for debanching the innocent hear who, like l'eter Pan, seemed not to want to grow up.

Executives at the BBC and ITV have always had misgivings about Soo, introduced 12 years after Sooty's debut. The BBC insisted that little bears did not have girifriends and Thames Television issued an edict that the pair should not touch. More recently, Granada, which will show the new series, adopted a more liberal attitude. Sooty and Soo became like "kissing

But in the Costa del Sol, on his first-ever trip abroad, Sooty hits the high life as only a mute bear with no parts below the hips can. The senoritas are genuine sexy humans, filmed in a disco in Benidorm. Viewers will see Matthew preen himself in anticipation, mistakenly thinking it is he that the flirty females want to drag onto the dance floor. But they turn out to be Sooty fans. "Not you, grandfather," they tell him, "the little yellow bear."

Meanwhile, assisted by the tricks of television technology, Sooty and Sweep dance with voluptuous grown-ups while the incorrigible Soo leaves in the Lamborghini.

John Stephens, Sooty International's director of programmes and Granada's associate producer of the Sooty series, explains: "Soo is a bit vain. All the flattery goes to her head and then she's given the run around - a bit like some English girls abroad, I'm afraid."

Sooty did not take a fancy to any particular senorita, he said, and it was only Matthew who seemed worried when Soo was whisked away by the seductive Antonio. "The point Sooty," he said, "is that in the series he's an international star abroad, getting adulation Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee - he's a bear about town."

Women in revealing clothes have no redress, says lawyer

STEVE BOGGAN and SHENA! RAIF

Women who wear revealing clothes in public have no right to complain if men subsequently sneak photographs or video pictures of them, a female

harrister told a court yesterday. Echoing the sort of language once used by male lawyers in court, Jacqueline Samuel said: "If a member of the public, whether royal or not, is willing to go into a public place showing a low cleavage it ill behoves anyone to criticise the taking of a picture.

It is no offence at all to take

videos of people who wear low-neck dresses in public

Ms Samuel was prosecuting Gary Archer, 36, the former

head of security at Harvey Nichols who came to national attention in January when security cameras at the store were used to record a visit of the Princess of Wales, complete with lingering shots of her legs and cleavage.

Home alone: the rubbish-strewn exterior of the Ardoyne house,

where a four-year-old was reduced to scavenging bird food

Mr Archer was facing two unrelated charges of theft. During legal argument over whether his tabloid "video rat" reputation would hamper his chances of a fair hearing, Ms Samuels said the trial should go ahead, adding: "It is not as if he climbed over the wall of Kensington Palace and stuck a video camera through her bed-

room window. After the hearing at South-wark Crown Court, London, the barrister said she was mak-

ing a legal point, not express-

ing a point of view. "The point was whether the defendant would have his reputation low ered in the view of a jury by tak-

ing a photograph of a woman in a low-cut dress," she said. "If someone goes into a public place wearing a low-cut dress and someone takes a photograph or a video they can-

not complain later." Last night, her comments came under fire from fellow women solicitors and politi-

Labour's spokeswoman on women's affairs, Janet Anderson said: "This woman barrister may have been making a legal point, but I think she could have chosen her words more sensitively and carefully. "To suggest Diana – or any

woman – was inviting it because

quite disgraceful." Alison Parkinson, chairroman of the Association of Women Solicitors, said: "I can see the point she was trying to make - because it is not an offence to film anyone in public but it was unfortunate she

used these words to make it." The case against Mr Archer. of Bridgwater, Somerset, was thrown out by the judge, Recorder Desmond Browne QC, because the time that had elapsed since the alleged thefts
of two walkie-talkies, two rugs
and a footstool - in 1993 had prevented him from tracing a

vital witness. However, he agreed with Ms Samuel that the "vidco rat" stories were not in themselves prejudicial.

Will the real Tony Blair please stand up?



A Blair lookalike, a waxwork, and the man himself - but which is which?

JOJO MOYES

"I do have a similar smile, but fortunately my ears lie flat on my head. I have to wad them out with bits of wadding. And I'm going a little thin on top so I have to do a bit of careful hairdressing to give it that look. We're the same height, same hair and eye colour. But it's very difficult with him because there

are no props or glasses." Michael Aidan-Ross is apparently one of a rare breed; the Tony Blair lookalike. Last night it emerged that Mr Blair's features have made it impossible to get an accurate

"We've been looking for a Tony Blair for eight months but we can't find anyone who looks anything like him. One paper called him "bland Blair" so

perhaps he's too bland to have a double," said Michael Sweeney, head of doubles agency Lookalikes."We have a few John Majors and at some dinner speeches people like to have a leader of the opposition to have a bit of a ruck. We've had a couple of those but we haven't been able to get a Tony Blair, which meant we had to use a Clinton," he said. "That

obviously wasn't as satisfactory." Susan Scott, whose agency represents Mr Aidan-Ross, conducted a hunt for her own Blair lookalikes through a television programme. "The problem is he's quite bland. Even my next door neighbour looks a bit like him," she said. "He's very normal looking with no particular characteristics. But the more we get to know him the caricatur-ists will be able to pull something out. I think this devil's eyes

thing might come along."

The difficulties in getting an accurate likeness of Mr Blair are not confined to lookalike agencies. Madame Tussands, who recently produced a waxwork model of the opposition leader. said that his image had proved somewhat difficult.

"The problem for our sculptor was that at the sitting, which was where she met him, he was all smiles, and in most of [the photographs] he was all smiles," the spokeswoman said.

But when we discussed his pose with him he had a look around and saw the models of John Major and Paddy Ashdown, which looked ... serious. So he decided he'd like to look quite serious, which she found very difficult." Mr Blair, it emerged, did not look recog-

nisably like Mr Blair when straight-faced.

Becoming a convincing Mr Blair in the run up to an election may prove very lucrative, according to agencies. Guest appearances mean a "good" Tony Blair can earn £15,000-£20,000 in three months. Mr Aidan-Ross is well aware

of this. He watches political coverage and even joined the Labour Party to try and get his portrayal as accurate as possi ble. The key, he says, is in the mannerisms. "He looks directly at people, unlike other politicians," he said. "I've heard criticisms of his smile but apart from that I think he's actually pretty good looking. But I'm bound to say that, aren't I?" And the real Tony Blair?

He is the man in the middle

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BIRTHS

Guards at the Garamba National Park, Zaire, are delighted to announce the birth of a new baby rhino 'Mbolifue' - meaning "Gift from Heaven".

Both mother and baby are doing fine.

Godparents wanted

For our precious "Gift from Heaven"

Before Mbolifue's arrival, there were just 29 northern white thinos alive in Garamba; the last surviving population in the wild. You can imagine the excitement when the tiny baby call was spotted from the air, moving slowly through the grass behind her mother. In March this year, a pregnant female was shot and brutally butchered by poachers. The birth of Mbolifue goes some way towards compensating for

that tragedy but, as a tiny calf this, "Gift from Heaven" is extremely vulnerable.

That's why we'd like you to help protect Mbolifue by joining our adoption scheme for just £2 a month. In return, you'll receive a photograph of Mbolifue (when we get one!) and regular update bulletins, following your calf's progress. Please help us if

Unfortunately, the grass is too high at this time of year for us to photograph buby Mbolifue. This picture of a white thins comes from our archive.

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Just how good do we really feel?

New mortgages highest since 1994 as credit fuels high street

NIC CICUTTI

It may not feel like the "feelgood factor" yet, but economists, housing analysts and retailers queued up yesterday to tell us that rising spending means that though still not in a state of ecstatic happiness, we are no longer feeling as grumpy

Mortgage-lending figures from the Building Societies Association showed that new lending commitments rose to 53,000 in July, the highest total since March 1994. Lending totalled £1.2bn, 7 per cent more than in

the same period last year.
The BSA added that mortgages were being repaid more quickly, mainly because some borrowers had not changed their standing orders when in-

Ron Armstrong, the BSA's deputy director general, said: "Other housing market indicators look promising. Transactions have been increasing since April and house prices have also been rising, encouraging more sellers on to the market."

Further evidence of an increase came from the Credit Card Research Group, which said that plastic-card spending in July was, at £6.9bn, some 16 per cent up on the same period last year. The use of cards in the High Street was up 19 per cent. Elizabeth Phillips, director of the group, said, however, that part of the increase came from the growing popularity of cards compared to money: "Consumers are realising that they can use their deb-

it cards in a wider variety of stores than only supermarkets and petrol stations

John Lewis said sales at its 23 stores were 7.5 per cent up in the past six months compared to the same period last year.

Ruth Parkhouse, assistant director at the British Retail Consortium, the retail trade body, said: "Sales have increased by about 3 per cent We have seen increases in almost every single retail area.
This seems to be because

customers' confidence is returning. The areas where sales are returning include things like carpets and furnishings, china and glassware, obviously related to the return of confidence in the housing market.

Generally, you have to say that if someone is prepared to spend a couple of thousands of pounds on new furniture they must be reasonably satisfied that they are not going to lose

Jonathan Loynes, UK econ-omist at HSBC Greenwell, added: "It is down to a combination of factors, including mortgage interest rates down to their lowest level for more than 30 years, falling unemployment, down from 29 million to 2.1 million in the past four years and the anticipated windfall from building society flotations.

"Probably the most important

thing is the state of the housing market which has risen more than 5 per cent in the past 12 months. Negative equity is gradually becoming a thing of the past for many people Shares at record high, page 16 Comfortably off again: A bed put to the test in a London department store yesterday



Call it a boom? It's just juggling with statistics, say Labour

ow Treasury secretary, yesterday dismissed suggestions that the long-awaited "feel-good factor" was finally returning and might boost the electoral for-tunes of the Government, writes Nic Cicutti.

Mr Darling said that an average family was paying £2,000 more in tax than four years ago and dismissed as "nonsense" suggestions that better economic figures showed a new boom is on the way.

"We want to see our con-stituents feeling better," he said yesterday.
"Many of them deserve it, be-

cause they have had a raw deal for many, many years, but the fact is that most people don't actually feel better.

"They may feel they are not being clobbered day in day out quite as much as they have been over the last year or two, but they don't feel good and they don't trust the Tories to get them out of the problems this country has been in." Despite falling unemploy-

ment and the lowest interest rates for more than 30 years, stimulating a minor housing market recovery, Mr Darling said: "I think the idea that somehow, because of one or two economic statistics, everything has turned round for the Tories

"People ... are worried about what the Tories will do to the health service, they are worried about class sizes, the state of the schools; they are paying high-er council taxes, water charges," he told BBC Radio 4's Today

Alistair Darling, Labour's shad- programme. He claimed that public horrowing was heading for a £12bn shortfall this year, despite recent optimistic fig. ures. The national debt had doubled since 1990, Mr Darling

added. Jonathan Loynes, UK econ-omist at HSBC Greenwell, said: *Our own view is that we are returning to a position where consumers are in the forefront

"But it could be argued that there are still a number of problems. The first point is the question of debt. People are now already in much more debt this time round than they were at the last stage of the recovery. In 1985, consumer debt was 80 per cent of average income, reaching 115 per cent in 1990.
Today, that stands at 106 per cent. People aren't going to feel

that good if they owe so much." Mr Loynes said changes in the labour market mean that while labour is much more flexible, that may not be such a good thing for the man in the street. The job for life is no longer guaranteed, while wages are now scarcely rising above in-

"Part of the problem may be a question of psychology. After the boom-and-bust experience of the last decade, it is quite possible that no longer believe in that sort of thing.

Mr Loynes cited a recent survey indicating that, despite sevunemployment, a recent poll showed more people expected it to rise this year than the oth-

New working peers: List spans glamorous names from business and public relations to loyal party workers and voices from ethnic minorities

Saatchi and Rogers are plum signings for upper chamber

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Lifelong party workers, glam- to the Tory cause is well-known women, and prominent figures from ethnic minorities form the main themes behind the new allegiance to Labour has been working peers' list, chosen personally by the three main par-

Alongside the likes of dames Joyce Anelay and Hazel Byford, tireless Tory servants, come the

guru, Peter Gummer, also made a working lord - Sir Richard's more private. Undoubtedly a plum signing for New Labour. Sir Richard's growing promi-nence as a design and style icon, will bring a flash of brilliance to the Upper Chamber.

Saatchi and Sir Richard Rogers. ure from retailing, Sir Ian have remained close to the While Mr Saatchi's devotion to the Tory cause is well-known – as is that of his fellow media with the death – as is that of his fellow Just as Sir Richard is credited with transforming many of the world's city centres, Sir Ian has tion of glitzier, upmarket lines and new products.

The contrast between Labour's choice of women peers and that of Tories could not be greater. While the two dames, Anelay and Byford,

Germany

out high-profile careers in a still male-dominated world. Ms Ramsay rose to the top of the spearheaded Tesco's introduc- Foreign Office before resigning to advise John Smith, the late Labour leader, Ms Symons was the first woman to be appointed general secretary of a front-line trade union - the First

Division Association of senior

civil servants. A redoubtable

established the FDA as a major influence on Whitehall pol-

icy and reforms. In what could be seen as a sop to old Labour, one of its stalwarts, Larry Whitty, is ennobled by Tony Blair. The former gen- a radio and television presenter. eral secretary of the party under Neil Kinnock and John Smith, he was responsible for a multi-millionaire Indian busiguiding through many of their

Photograph: Tom Pilston

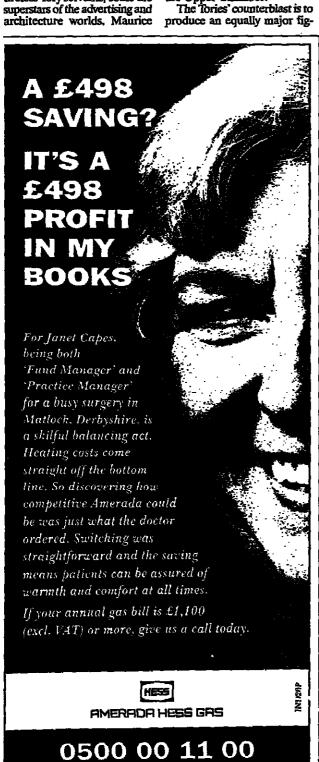
general election campaign at Cheltenham in 1992 gets his reward of a peerage from Mr Major. Since being defeated in Cheltenham, Mr Taylor, a bar-

rister, has built a new career as He will face in the Lords the impressive figure of Swraj Paul, nessman. Mr Paul, the founder

Ambika, aged five. He gave £1m to London Zoo to rebuild the children's zoo in her honour.

A close friend of Gordon Brown, Mr Paul will be a considerable economic influence, as will his fellow new Labour peer, David Currie, of the London Business School Professor Currie's recent specialisation of

voice from any side, however, will be that of John Alderdice, head of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland. Denied a seat at Westminster by traditional sectarian voting loyalties, his neutral Alliance Party will at last be heard centre-stage. Dr Alderdice will take the Liberal Democrat whip on issues othcompetition regulation will be er than Ulster.





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Lords regular and irregular

High-profile peerages do not always live up to the promise; not all those who have been awarded life peerages attend the Lords with the regularity that

might have been expected.
According to the latest statistical analysis by the House of Lords, Baroness Thatcher attended only six of the 142 sitting days in the parliamentary year to November 1995. On the Labour side, Lord

(Richard) Attenborough at-tended the Lords on only five days. Other part-timers include Lord Deedes, the Telegraph journalist and former Tory minister, who attended the House on two days; Lord Young of

Graffham, a member of the Thatcher government, who at-tended on four days; Lord King of Wartnaby, former chairman of British Airways, who attended on 26 days; Lord Menubin, the violinist, who did not attend at all; and Lord Sieff, former chairman and managing director of Marks & Spencer, who has also not taken his oath during the current Parliament.

Altogether, at the end of July, there were 1,195 peers in the Lords, of whom 81 are the Government.

under the Life Peerages Act

The most dedicated Conservalive life peer appears to have been Lord Boyd-Carpenter, the former minister, who missed just one day's attendance in the last parliamentary session.

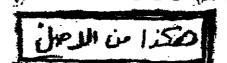
The most dedicated Labour life peers would appear to be Lord Cocks, the former Labour Chief Whip: Lord Peston, the economist and Opposition spokesman in the Lords; and two former MPs, Lord Molloy and Lord Graham - who all attended on every day the House

On the Liberal Democrat benches, Lord Harris of Greenwich, the former Labour Minister, was the most assiduous attender, missing only two days, and the most dedicated hereditary peers were Lord Monkswell, who is a Labour peer, and Viscount Simon, a crossbencher, who also attended all 142 days.

As for the cost, the Lords represents good value for money. if its democratic function is accepted. And many would argue that because it is free of the slavish submission to the whips so regularly seen in the Commons, it is more likely to defeat



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communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has led to a steep rise in female

unemployment and cutbacks in state services. A spokeswoman for the charity said it was impossible accu-

The spread of HIV and Aids has led to increasing sexual exploitation of young people as rately to estimate how many children are involved because of the illegal and hidden nature of ploitation of young people as men seek out younger girls whom they believe are likely to the trade. But existing studies estimate that the number of child-sex workers in Colombia be free from the virus, writes has doubled over the past three years, with a third aged under 14. In Thailand the estimated Children called on governments around the world to strengthnumber of children in commercial sex work ranges from 20,000 to 800,000.

"It is clear [from workers in the field] that the problem has been getting worse," a spokes-woman said.

In countries where there is a high prevalence of HIV/Aids, men are increasingly seeking to have sex with young virgins free from the disease. In India as many as 20 per cent of girls in the tribal communities begin working in the sex trade between 11 and 13 and "this is instigated by the clients in order to avoid HIV infection".

compassing not only prostitu-tion but also child trafficking and the use of children in pornography.
Powerty is a critical factor
Save the Children said, with
some women and girls having no The report said that every year thousands of children were sold, abducted or tricked into other recourse but to fall back on prostitution. The collapse of forced prostitution in countries other than their own.

It was estimated that at least 100,000 Nepalese girls were working as prostitutes in India at any one time, while there was extensive evidence of child trafficking among the countries of Central America.

Child sex scandals: Police fear that teeenagers may have been sold into prostitution as plight of youngsters in vice trade is revealed No clue in hunt for Belgian girls

LOUISE JURY

The investigation into the childsex scandal continued at a string of addresses across Belgium vesterday, but there was still no sign of the two missing teenagers who police believe may still be alive.

The rescue last week of two girls from a cellar where they had been imprisoned, in one case for three months, had raised hopes of finding An Marchal, 19, and Eefje Lambrecks, 17, who vanished from Ostend a year ago. Marc Dutroux and Michel Lelievre, the two men at the centre of the paedophile investigation, have admitted kidnapping the girls.

But despite speculation that the teenagers may have been sold into prostitution abroad. possibly in Germany or the

Photograph: Patrick Zachmann/Magnum

not yet made any formal ap- 14, and Sabine Dardenne, 12 proaches to foreign police for were found alive in the soundhelp Jean-Pierre van den Berge, head of Interpol's missing children office in Brussels, said: "At the moment Interpol have not received any request from Belgian police to send to other countries."

Books of condolence for Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo. both aged eight, have been opened in many towns and cities across Belgium. Their hodies were discovered at the weekend in Sars-la-Buissière near Charleroi, buried in the garden of Dutroux, a convicted rapist and paedophile whose child-sex crimes were discovered last week. The girls starved to death earlier this year while 34year-old Dutroux was in prison.

They will be buried on Thursday.

In the Charleroi suburb of

proof cellar and where Julie and Melissa are believed to have died, a stream of people continue to pay their respects and sign the national petition calling for tougher penalties for the perpetrators of such crimes. A sign across the building one of a number of properties owned by Dutroux, eads for

the reestablishment of the death penalty which was abolished in 1991. Another states: "Imprisonment for life would be a punishment too easy and too kind." Dutroux, his second wife

Michelle Martin, and associates Lehevre and Jean-Michel Nihoul all face charges in connection with the kidnapping and abuse of Lactitia and also be involved in the disap-Marcinel where Lactitia Delhee, pearance of another six children.



مكذا من الاحل

Flesh trade: Girls prostitutes in Thailand, where the sex industry recruits ever younger workers 12-year-olds for sale on the streets

GLENDA COOPER

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Girls as young as 12 are being sexually exploited on British streets while the men who buy and sell them for sex escape punishment, according to the children's charity Barnardo's.

The charity called for a tightening of the law to crack down on what they termed "child sex offenders" as children's rights campaigners prepare for a conress in Stockholm to demand that governments give courts the or sells the girls on under the power to prosecute adults who travel overseas to have sex with

It was estimated last year that more than 5,000 underage girls are working as prostitutes in Britain, and the number caught soliciting has doubled since 1990. The Children's Society said that between 1989 and 1993 nearly 1,500 convictions were secured against under-18s for offences relating to

prostitution. In the same period, 1,800 cautions were issued. Barnardo's looked at 15 months' work which had been done with 45 girl prostitutes aged between 12 and 17 in their Bradford project, Street and Lanes. Nearly 30 had been under 16 and more than half had been raped A further 12 said they had given into sex be-

cause of fear of violence. Sara Swann, the project kader, said that attitudes must change so that these girls are or encouraging prostitution of seen as victims of child sex a 13- to 16-year-old carries a

abuse rather than prostitutes. These girls do not go on the streets because they are drug addicts. They do not go on the streets to support their habit. They do not wake up one morning and start selling sex because they are sex mad," she said.

Glenda Cooper.
The British charity Save the

en laws against child prostituen laws against that prosum-tion in advance of the first

world Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which will take place in Stockholm from 27-31

The charity in their report
Kids For Hire said that there had

been growing numbers of children involved in the sex indus-

try throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America en-

She said that they were ensnared by an older man - typi-cally aged between 18 and 25 who lavished attention on them, made them dependent then forced them to work as a

prostitute. "The girls are locked into an abusive relationship when they are dependent on their boyfriend who they believe loves them. He in turn offers the voung women to his friends, sends them out on the streets pretext that he loves them and knows what is best.

"The girls have been raped, physically and emotionally abused and the majority have been infected with sexually transmitted diseases, and yet the abusers go unpunished," said

Girls told of being beaten up by their "boyfriend", burned with cigarettes, locked in rooms and forced to have sex with their boyfriend's friends. Sexually transmitted diseases were common, with one 15-year-old so badly infected she is infertile.

Michael Jarman, director of child care for Barnardo's, said yesterday that existing legislation should be tightened up.

At present a girl can be branded a common prostitute if she is convicted twice for so-liciting. While sex with a child under 13 carries life imprisonment, sex with a girl aged 13-16

maximum penalty of two years. "Current maximum penalties prostitution of girls under 16 and sexual intercourse and assault against children aged 16-

Men turn to

children for

fear of Aids

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Arts news: Former director joins chorus of disapproval as cultural jamboree criticised for favouring established performers

Edinburgh Festival 'needs new direction

DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

The harmony of the Edinburgh Festival has been shattered with the former director of the world's biggest arts jamboree arguing it needs to find a new

The unprecedented criticism of the present administration was made in an interview with The Independent by Frank Dunlop, who ran the festival

Brian McMaster, Mr Dunlop said he was "very admiring of people who have already achieved emmence.'

The attack means that this year's Edinbugh Festival is fast becoming one of the most criticised in recent times.

First, in the inaugural Edinburgh Festival Lecture, Professor George Steiner claimed the festival had become too un-

sciences as well as the arts.

Then Edinburgh impressario and gallery owner Richard Demarco lamented at a public debate the growing number of stand-up comics on the Fringe. And at the same meeting, Scottish publisher John Calder complained that the official Festival was under-promoted by the Scottish Tourist Office.

In addition, the prestige pro-

from 1983 to 1991. In a side-swipe at the current director, wieldy, had lost its original pur-pose and should embrace the nore, Robert Lepage's adaptation of Hamlet, was cancelled at the last minute.

> the most significant for the present festival. He said yesterday: "The festival is a fantastic event but in order for it not to get bogged down it has to keep looking for new directions." When he left the festival, Mr Dunlop left behind him the festival and that the festival

been acted upon, urging that the festival to be more creative, Festival become a producing be a production unit and bring unit', commissioning and formle last minute. ing its own productions
But Mr Dunlop's analysis is throughout the year, as well as just presenting ready made productions from home and

He repeated the call yesterday, saying "I proposed that the new Edinburgh Festival Theatre become the centre for a three-year plan, which has not run it all year round. I wanted Festival Theatre. I know that's

people from countries all over the world. The festival has to deal with what it was created for, which was to promote interna-

tional understanding. Mr Dunlop said that the festival should create productions from scratch and then tour the world with them. "There should be technical workshops as well based around the Edinburgh

that would be a very good way to go." Professor Steiner had also called for the festival to mount workshops so that the public could see how great performances are developed.

Mr Dunlop refused to criticise his successor directly. "Brian was a very appointment," he said, cause he was completely different from me. One of the really important things he has

But he added: "I thought it was important to work with new people and young people, not just established artists. You do

always need to experiment." Mr McMaster said: "If you look at the festival over the last 49 years it is clear that each director's personal taste has to a large extent determined the programme. It is perhaps inevitable that another director will have different opinions."

Papers reveal secret trail of Nazi gold

MICHAEL STREETER

Two tons of Nazi gold were handed over to Britain and may have been claimed by high-ly placed Hitler sympathisers in this country after the Second World War, it was claimed yes-

Secret documents only now made public in the US government archives show that the gold, part of a 15-ton haul from the German Foreign Ministry, was sent to a British controlled zone of north Germany in 1945.

According to a letter in 1948 written by Robert Kempner, a Nuremberg trials, the two tons were then "allegedly turned over to the British".

The 15 tons made up what was apparently called the Ribbentrop Gold Fund, after the German foreign minister, Joachim Von Ribbentrop, who had been ambassador in London before the war.

There is no record of whether this gold ever reached Britain but Labour MP Greville Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said there was concern about the gold's fate.

He said: "There is a possibility that this gold was sent by Ribbentrop to the British zone and got into the hands of his British friends, some of whom

were very highly placed. He was a renowned hater of the British but he did have

friends here, upper-crust Hitler sympathisers. We may have opened a Pandora's box."

The news of the Ribbentrop gold follows revelations that the Allies, including Britain, knew that the Nazis had placed millions of pounds worth of gold in Swiss bank accounts, much of it stolen from Jews murdered in concentration camps.

There was also an Allied deal with the Swiss to split the proceeds. The Foreign Office. Ministry of Defence and Treasury have launched parallel inquiries into the matter. A Foreign Office spokesman said senior US prosecutor at the the latest disclosures would also be investigated.

The letter from Mr Kempner, unearthed by the World Jewish Congress in the US, states that, from his interviews with "several hundred" German diplomats during the course of his war crimes inquiries, he discovered that 11 tons of the Ribbentrop Gold Fund was 'hurriedly" moved from Berlin in 1945, and that 6.5 tons went to an American-controlled zone in Austria, two tons to the British-controlled Schleswig-Holstein area, and three tons to the shores of Lake Constance. also American-controlled.

Addressing the political division of the US Army, Mr Kempner urged that the matter should not be dropped because of the potential "force of evil" such gold could constitute in the hands of the wrong people.



Forgotten for half a century, a village emerges from the tides of time

Shallow grave: The pump house of the hamlet of Ashopton, buried since 1943, is exposed by the falling waters of Ladybower reservoir in the Peak District. The water level has dropped by 13ft because of a continuing drought in the north of England, and reserves have shrunk from 6.25bn to 2.5bn gallons

Photograph: Brian Harris

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Employers take their pick of university graduates

ממטר אנאמטר Education Editor

Students who want a job in law should go to Oxford but those who intend to make it in bank-ing should head for the London School of Economics, according to a new survey of the uni-

versities companies prefer.
The survey of 257 major companies and ten subjects by the Performance Indicator project, an independent statistical survey, shows that Oxford and Cambridge, in that order, lead the field in law. They are followed by Durham, Bristol and Edinburgh.

In accountancy, finance and banking, however, companies rate students from the LSE highest, followed by Edinburgh, Manchester, Warwick and Kent. The ten subjects covered in

civil engineering, languages, law, electrical engineering, sciences, computing, business, accountancy, finance and banking and economic and social

In sciences, Cambridge came top and Oxford fifth. Overall, Cambridge came top followed by the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. The two were also first and second in last year's survey. Dr Cliff Petrifor, the project's director, said the vocational nature of the subjects surveyed might explain why

Oxford had done less well. The most improved university in employers' ratings was York which rose in almost every subject area. Newcastle and St

Andrews are also going up.
The former polytechnics do not feature in the top ten for any ford, followed by Cambridge,

technology, construction and of the subjects but several are Manchester, improving their ratings. De Leeds, Birmingham and Edin-Montfort was fifth amongst the improvers and Oxford Brookes, Manchester Metropolitan, Kingston and the University of Central England were also among those who did better than last year.

Another survey of employers' attitudes to universities, which aims to help students using the clearing system to secure a university places, shows only one new university, Glasgow Cale-donian, in the top 25.

The survey of 105 leading companies was conducted by Mander Portman and Woodstudents a guide to the likely status of degrees. It shows that employers have a "premier league"

of traditional universities. The table is headed by Ox-

burgh, (joint sixth) and Loughborough. Bristol, Durham, Umist and Warwick are joint eighth. Almost half the companies said they had definite preferences about recruiting graduates. The tutorial colleges say it is important for students to know how universities are regarded when they are deciding whether or not it is worth re-

taking their A-levels. Employers appear to be focussing their recruitment efforts on a limited number of universities. However, new universi-Mander Portman and Wood-ward tutorial colleges to offer courses which help prepare students for particular jobs.

The Performance Indicator Project: Harlaxton College, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 1AG. £24.00. Written enquiries

Christ's tops Cambridge league

	1996	Tompkins	table	
(1995	College	"Finals"	er All Sales	Alternative
place)		only %	exams 9	6. position
1 (1)	Christ's	68.7%	65.0%	1
2 (20)	St. John's -	66.8%	67.5%	4
3 (6)	King's	66.2%	60.2%	. 11
4 (5)	Queens'	66.0%	63.3%	2
5 (17)	Clare	66.0%	61.7%	5
6 (7)	Trinity	65.4%	63.0%	31
7 (21)	· Trinity Hall	- 65.3%	· 61.3%	6
8 (2)	St. Catherine	s 64.9%	57.5%-	21
9 (14)	Fitzwilliam	64.9%	61.0%	7
10 (12)	Peterhouse	63.8%	59.4%	14
11. (10)	Sidney Sussex	63.8%	59.6%	13
12 (3)	Emmanuel	63.7%	-60.3%	10
13 (4)	Corpus Christ	i 63.3%	55.6%	23
14 (18)	Magdalene	63.2%	59:3%	15
15 (8)	Gooville & C	ins 60.8%	.59.7% ·	12
16 (9)	Downing	. 60.6%	, 60.9%	8
17 (13)	Pembroke "	60.6%	60.8%	9
18 (16)	Jesus	60.3%	-58 <i>5%</i>	17
19 (23)	Sclwyn	60.0%	58.4%	18
20 (11)	Newpham	-60.0%	58.2%	20
21-(24)	Robinson	60.0%	56.3%	22
22: (15)	Churchill	59.8%	~~ 58.4%	19
23 (19)	Girton	-58.9%	58.8%	16
24 (22)	New Hall	58.1%	- 55.5%	24

Christ's College heads this year's Tompkins league for fi-nal results at Cambridge with St John's, which was 20th last year, leaping into second place.
Clare College also did well,
rising from 12th to fifth out of

the 24 colleges. Churchill, however, was down to 22nd, after being in 15th place last year. Emmanuel and Corpus

Christi also fell back, from third and fourth respectively last year to 12th and 13th this. New Hall, one of the remaining colleges for women,

comes bottom. King's, top for five successive years until last year, comes

The colleges' positions in the rankings, compiled for The Independent by Peter Tompkins, a London actuary, are calculated by giving each college five points for a first, three for

an upper second, two for a lower second and one for a third. The results are given in the table on the left as a percentage of the points that a college would have scored if everyone

had had a first. Mr Tompkins also compiles two other Cambridge college

exam leagues. If all three are taken into account, the togethree colleges are Christ's,

Queens' and Trinity. One of the other lists covers first and second year exams as well as finals. The right-hand column in the table shows the resulting positions.

The third ranking, which is not shown, cover the percentage of firsts. Christ's did best with 26.9 per cent, followed by Trinity on 26.2 per cent.

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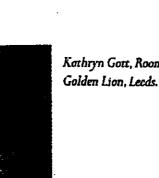
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Karen Loughran, Laundry Supervisor.

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'I don't know where we can run to'

Attack orders provoke vicious Kremlin battle

PHIL REEVES Moscow

Tens of thousands of refugees were streaming out of Grozny vesterday as the commander of the Russian forces stuck by his plan to attack the city after tomorrow, fuelling a fierce dispute in the heart of the Kremlin over who is in charge of policy in the 20-month war.

As men, women and children city, more evidence emerged in Moscow that the conflict has precipitated a major political feud between the secretary of Russia's security council, Alexander Lebed, and hardliners who want to settle the war

Infighting in the Kremlin erupted into the open yesterday when the security council issued a statement implying that offi-cials had issued orders about the war without properly consulting Mr Yeltsin, apparently in an attempt to scupper Mr Lebed's attempts to negotiate peace.

As the crisis deepened, so too did signs that Mr Yeltsin's grip over his team is weakening. Aides of Mr Yeltsin, who have for days been hotly denying ru-mours that he is seriously ill with heart trouble, announced that the President had left by helicopter for a two-day break in Valdai, in the lake-dotted country side of north-west Russia.

The council's statement also contained what amounted to an open appeal from Mr Lebed for the bombardment threatened by the acting Russian commander, General Konstantin Pulikovsky, not to go ahead, warning of "heavy losses among the federal troops, massive deaths among the civilian population ... and a justified burst of resentment in the country". Recent ceasefire negotiations by the security tsar would be wrecked.

Earlier the Interfax news agency said that General Pulikovsky had repeated his threat to start bombarding the city with artillery and aircraft missiles from Thursday, in an effort to drive out some 2,500-3,000 separatist fighters who stormed in a fortnight ago, inflicting a hu-miliating defeat on Russia.

Although it was unclear on whose authority the commander was acting, he comes beneath the control of the Russian interior minister, Anatoly Kulikov, whose firing Mr Lebed has demanded on the grounds that he has mishandled the war. Mr Kulikov, who presided over Russia's farcical bombing struggled out of the wrecked of a Dagestani village in January, appears to have aligned himself with the "party of war" who believe the conflict can be settled by force.

However, the allegedly suspect orders referred to in the security council's statement appeared to be instructions to Mr Lebed - the president's envoy to the war zone - to restore Russian control over Grozny to the level of 5 August, the day before the Chechens launched their attack. The document "gave solid grounds to doubt" that the President took "a direct part in finalising the test of the order", it said.

It alleged that Mr Lebed was unaware of the preparation of the order, thus violating normal procedures, and claimed that a facsimile of the president's signature was used instead of his signing it. The secretary of the security council assumes that no one is allowed to manipulate on behalf of the president," it said. The semi-official news agency Itar-Tass last night quoted the presidential press office saying that the order was fully in line with

Reports from Chechnya yesterday placed the number of refugees at more than 44,000, and they were said to be overwhelming local officials providing assistance. Some said the Russians had already begun bombing the city. The Chechen separatist spokesman, Movladi Udugov, alleged that the Russians had blown up a bridge over which the refugees were fleeing, killing about 100 civilians. The Russian authorities denied all knowledge of the attack.



Thousands take the last exit from embattled Grozny

Grozny (AP) — A woman dressed only in a purple bathrobe ran down the dirt road, clutching her 8-year-old daughter by the hand and sobbing with terror as artillery shells exploded behind her.

"I don't know where I can run to. The Russians are shooting at everything and everyone," Yahira Daudova cried. "Who will save us?"

Dandova said she didn't even have time to dress when she fled from Grozny yesterday. She held a small plastic bag containing the only possessions she and her daughter managed to grab before leaving. They joined thousands of other refugees fleeing Grozny down the bumpy dirt road that was the only ma-jor exit from the city.

The Russian army warned Grozny's residents on Monday to leave the Chechen capital be-fore it began a major offensive to retake the city, captured by separatist rebels on 6 August. The military said the corridor would be open for 48 hours, but aiready fighting was raging around it yesterday.

Russian troops with armoured personnel carriers recaptured at least one point on the road after fierce clashes with Chechen fighters, who had controlled the route since taking the city. Refugees were caught between the two sides as shells exploded around them and machine-gun fire cut through the surrounding forest. Mistaking a reporter for a soldier, a terrified elderly

woman begged for mercy. Please, please don't burt me. I don't have any money or food. Please," she sobbed.

Several refugees claimed they had been robbed and beaten by Russian soldiers. One man displayed red welts across the back of his neck which he said were inflicted by soldiers.

Many of the refugees from the city are ethnic Russians. One after another, they burst into a stream of profanities about President Boris Yeltsin's government, which they blame

Terror and tears as warning of offensive sparks a mass exodus

rid of Yeltsin, this Russian leader who makes war on the Russian people," screamed Iri-na Sadova. "These are not sol-

diers. They are bandits."
As the firing flared around them, the refugees stumbled down the road. Many were on foot, carrying bulging plastic bags and battered suitcases. Covered in sweat and panting from exhaustion, they trudged on under the blazing sun.

Yesterday we were told there was a special corridor and we could leave. But there is fighting everywhere. I don't know where this crazy corridor is, said Isar Hysumov.

Children struggled along the road, many wearing summer sandals. A few cried but most were silent. During lulls in the fighting, columns of dilapidated cars and trucks dashed by. bearing white flags made from old sheets and towels to show they were civilian vehicles.

Small cars with 10 or more people crammed inside lurched alongside trucks with 50 or more people piled in the back. A few ramshackle buses rolled past, dozens of people clinging to the roof and the sides.

Grozny's one-time population of 400,000 has dwindled to below 100,000, according to one estimate. Many people had not wanted to leave Grozny because they had nowhere to go and no money to live on.

Others fled the city when the war started in December 1994. They had returned and begun rebuilding their lives in the cap-ital when the Chechen fighters captured it earlier this month.

"We run for our lives. But how with we live? Maybe we will die in the fields with the animals," said one man, who said he was almost 70 and had no relatives or friends anywhere.

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Ailing Yeltsin in hibernation away from dangerous feud

The war in Chechnya was never only about the desire of a small people to be independent of Russia's rough embrace. Darker forces - from clannish feuds to the predatory ambitions of superpowers - have long muddied the moral issues underlying this ugly conflict. But now it has become the focus of yet another struggle: a battle for the Krem-There is no doubt that Boris

Yeltsin is extremely unwell, despite attempts by his aides to convince the world that he is not suffering from further heart trouble. His staff insist he has been working for a few hours a day, until yesterday, when they said he had gone for a two-day break in the country. But he has not been seen pub-

licly since his brief, wooden performance at his inauguration almost a fortnight ago. Not for the first time, the President has gone into hibernation, leaving behind a dangerous feud over who runs the Chechen war and · ultimately – Russia.

When Mr Yeltsin appointed the blunt-spoken, politically naive Alexander Lebed as the secretary of a beefed-up Security Council two months ago, it was clear that a fight was looming in the Kremlin. Even before the ex-paratrooper arrived, he the crisis. While the Interior had secured the scalp of his Ministry remained in day-to-day arch-enemy, the Defence Min- charge of the combined com-

ister, Pavel Grachev, who was promptly fired.

No one doubted the former general would continue to use his commander, Konstantin Pu-

general would continue to use his elbows to secure his position at the top. He quickly fell out with Viktor Chemomyrdin, the Prime Minister and one of his likely future rivals for the presidency, and Anatoly Chubais, Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff. But his latest battle - a demand for the sacking of the Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, because of his inept handling of the Chechen war has wider implications than personal political ambitions.

likovsky, Mr Lebed felt his political efforts to settle the crisis would come to nought.

Mr Yeltsin's apparent response (it was relayed by his press department) was to slap down his up-start protégé, telling him Mr Kulikov would

stay. But the Interior Ministry's reaction took a more frightening form: its officials in Grozny began handing out an ultima-tum from General Pulikovsky



Blunt-talking Lebed represents the best chance of solving the war

Kulikov came shortly after the President had placed Mr Lebed in charge of resolving the conflict, with powers to coordinate the activities of the divided federal forces in the war zone, principally the Interior Ministry, the Russian army and the newlook KGB, the Federal Security Service. It was plainly a bid to enhance his powers, which he still saw as inadequate to solve

telling residents to clear the city by tomorrow because he intended to launch a full-scale assault. At a stroke, the tentative

moves towards peace achieved

by Mr Lebed's visits to Chech-

nya last week were snuffed out. Last night it was unclear whether Mr Yeltsin had, or had not, approved the orders to retake Grozny. Mr Lebed's Security Council issued an extraordinary statement questioning the authenticity of his instructions, alleging that he was being manipulated by rival

which confirms the feuding and confusion at the heart of power. It pointed out that the President had not signed the document; a facsimile signature had been used.

The tragedy of this is that Mr Lebed represented Russia's best chance at solving the war. He has a deeper understanding of the realities of Chechnya than the short-sighted hardliners around Mr Kulikov. After 20 months and 35,000 deaths, they still believe the war can be solved by bombarding the republic into submission. Pride is a driving force: they are determined to avenge the humiliating loss of Grozny a fortnight ago.

By contrast, Mr Lebed has compared the war with Russin's disastrous intervention in Afghanistan. Although he has modified his pre-election stance that the separatists should be allowed a referendum on independence, he admowledges that force will never work - let alone force administered by Russia's ill-organised troops, against a determined people.

His opinions inspired the confidence of the Chechen leadership who were yesterday begging him to reverse General Pulikovsky's "mad" assault. But the signs were not promising. Last night it looked as if an ill, absentee President and a public feud at the Kremlin is about to claim hundreds, perhaps thousands, more lives.

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the brunt. In the Liberal-National government's first budget since it ended 13 years of Labor rule five months ago, Peter Costello, the Treasurer (finance minister), undertook to balance the budget by 1999. "If we avoid the hard decisions now, we will be leaving Australia on a path of debt and deficit into the next century," he said.

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protest was more subdued, its

target was the same as that of

the 25,000 trade unionists who

marched on Canberra on Mon-

day to protest at Mr Howard's

strategy, which is to curb union

ROBERT MILLIKEN

Canberra

The budget he presented to the House of Representatives last night was a blueprint for a government that intends to end what it sees as the special treatment accorded during the Labor years to such groups as Aborigines, environmentalists and the cultural lobby.

It wants a smaller government, which will impose greater self-reliance on ordinary Australians for their health care, ed- obtain relief on capital-gains

ucation and retirement income. taxes. The costs of these mea Mr Howard had hoped to soften the political blows by an-Thousands of Aborigines nouncing the most controversial demonstrated in Canberra yescuts in advance. University terday, playing didgeridoos and stamping on the Australian flag as John Howard's conservative funding will be cut by 5 per cent and students will have to con-

the chorus

of disapproval

tribute more to their education coalition government introby paying it back in extra taxes after graduation. duced a budget containing cuts affecting welfare, job schemes The federally funded ABC and indigenous Australians.
The raily came after the most will lose 15 per cent of its budget and has already announced violent scenes the capital has it will have to cut programmes and merge radio networks. seen, when protesters stormed Parliament House on Monday, About 30,000 federal bureaucrats will lose their jobs. The fought police and left the building's entrance hall stained with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, which controis spending on Australia's Although the Aboriginal

of strikes and protests.

The Labor Party, with the

support of the Democrats, one

of the smaller parties, has an-

nounced that it will block the bill

in the Senate, the upper house,

where the Democrats and the

Greens hold the balance of

cent of its budget, cut. It was these cuts and the gov ernment's plans to diminish trade-union power through changes to the industrial-relations laws that sparked the demonstrations. It was left to Mr Costello last night to sell the budget strategy by presenting it as one that calls on the rich, as well as the less well-off, to make sacrifices.

indigenous and poor minority,

have A\$400m, or 11 per

The government will set up a task force to pinpoint how the rich avoid and minimise paying tax and to win back some of the A\$800m a year lost from tax avoidance. Big earners will be encouraged to take out private health insurance by having an extra 1 per cent levy imposed on tax they already pay towards Medicare, the public health-insurance scheme, unless they switch to private care.

The unemployed, 8.5 per cent of the workforce, will suffer even more. The government will cut almost A\$2bn from job-creation schemes.

The two groups that will benefit most will be families and small business, both of which Mr Howard sees as the heart and soul of middle Australia. Almost 2 million low- and middle-income families will receive tax relief, while small businesses will



Step back: An Aboriginal dancing in front of demonstrators yesterday as riot police blockade Parliament House in Canberra



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Marriage made in eco-heaven for green giant

TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles

Amid the madness of King Ross Perot's Reform Party, and the canned applause at the made-for-media Republican convention, the Green Party's first expedition into presidential politics was a breath of fresh, pollution-free air in the US

election campaign.

At "Green Gathering '96".

62-year-old consumer advocate
Ralph Nader accepted the party's nomination and vowed to take on the giant corporations crushing American democracy. In a crowded university threatre, he was received with standing ovations and occa-



Nader: Breath of fresh air

sional cries of "Go Ralphie". A nationally known veteran of fights to improve car safety and ban toxic chemicals, he promised a spirited but unconventional campaign where he will refuse political donations and spend less than \$5,000 (£3,300). "Like people eat Wheaties, I go on talk radio,"

The four day event at the University of California campus here drew 3(0) activists. Its high point came at a press conference when an Alaska delegate pulled out a whole salmon, dripping blood, to attack fisheries producing salmon eggs who discard millions of pounds of fish. Press passes were handed out freely and made of ships of blue recycled paper hanging on hemp string. People in red bereis, straggling beards and

THE US
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS S

shorts were buttons that said "Freedom begins at home: Stop the war". "Optimism in the face of reality" promised the young man offering copies of the party's programme.

The document endorses that ultimate political no-no, gay marriage, and calls for a "none-of-the-above" option on future election ballots. Serious interest in the Green Party's electoral prospects this year focus chiefly on California, which has his-torically warmed to third parties. Polls this spring gave Mr Nader up to 7 per cent of the vote in a four-way race with Mr Perot, Bill Clinton, and Bob

But analysts are divided on the party's ability to draw liberal dissenters disgusted by Bill Clinton's move to the centre on the environment and welfare reform. In a close race, they may return to the Democrat fold. The Green Party's alliance with Mr Nader seems a marriage made in eco-heaven. He wears brown suits, watches a blackand-white television, and draws high approval ratings from the public for his work over 30 years

as a consumer watchdog. But the nominee has refused to join the Green Party, endorse its platform or even, it is said. share his schedule with party leaders. Instead he sees the campaign as a vehicle for attacking the corporate culture of America and the "flaccid, insipid, empty, cowardly platforms, of the "Tweedledum and Tweedledee" major parties in a system awash with company cash. It has brought rumblings of dissent from some who say the tiny party isn't ready for a national campaign.

"I didn't want the movement to run another straight white man," said Johann Moore, who promotes the medical use of marijuana in New York and came to the gathering by train.
"He isn't green enough."

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SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Burundi's new Tutsi military strongman sacked the Beountry's three most powerful military officers. Jean-Luc Ndizeye said Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in a bloodless coup on 25 July, had dismissed the powerful chief-of-staff, the head of the gendarmerie, and the head of the military at the presidential palace. Analysts said the dismissals of the hardline officers may be a move to placate regional anger over the coup. Reuter - Bujumbura

Olympic bomb suspect Richard Jewell passed a lie detector test in which he denied any involvement in the deadly 27 July attack, the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported. A polygrapher hired by the security guard's lawyers told the newspaper the test results showed Mr Jewell had nothing to do with the pipe bombing that left two people dead and more than 100 injured at downtown Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. Reuter - Atlanta

The FBI wants to double its presence in foreign cities over the next four years, the Washington Post reported. Under the plan, FBI representatives would be stationed in 46 cities abroad, compared with 23 now, the newspaper said. The expansion would cost \$80m through the year 2000. The number of FBI special agents detailed to the foreign posts would rise from 70 to 129 AP - Washington

The US said it was expelling a Cuban diplomat in response to the expulsion of a US diplomat from Cuba. The State Department said Cuba revoked the visa last week of Robin Meyer, after accusing her of spying. The department said it had informed Cuba earlier on Monday that it was taking reciprocal action. Reuter - Washington

The Dalai Lama will meet South Africa's President Nelson Mandela in Cape Town on Thursday, a presidential spokesman said. The Tibetan leader said Mr Mandela's government could help to put pressure on China to negotiate the future of the country. Reuter - Durban

Along Kong dimsum chopped up his temptress boss bedroom and tried to seduce him. Zeng Liangxin, 31, a worker from China who went on trial for the murder on Monday, told the court he killed the woman because he feared she would accuse him of rape after he had spurned her. Reuter - Hong Kong

Former US President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy have reluctantly listed their southern California ranch for sale, an aide said. Mr Reagan announced in 1994 that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and he and his wife have lived solely in their Los Angeles mansion since then. Reuter - Los Angeles

Agroup of 56 Chinese writers, former officials and academics has petitioned Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, to save cultural relics from the gigantic Three Gorges dam which would flood huge tracts of land. About 130 historical sites, some dating to the Stone Age, could be flooded as soon as next year. Reuter - Peking

After decades of tolerating marijuana sales in local coffee shops, some Dutch towns have decided to go into the soft drugs business. Authorities in Delfzijl are to open a new soft drugs shop on 1 September. Profits will be used to fund education campaigns on drug use. AP

French Muslims in battle for Islam

Mosques at centre of power struggle. Mary Dejevsky reports There are French tricolours flying from the minaret of the grand mosque at Evry. You renewed call for contributions the contracts are valuable, the

can see them across the concrete-and-grass wasteland that separates the suburbs of Evry and Courcouronnes the moment you emerge from the station, 40 minutes south of central Paris. They are one of the few outward signs of the battle being waged for the hearts, minds,

and wallets, of French Muslims. At the entrance to the mosque, two notices have been posted. The first says: "Those who betray us are no part of us
-Word of the Prophet." The second says: "Purge the Evry mosque and cultural centre of those who have used Islam for personal gain."

Last week, the grand mosque at Evry became the first in France to be "liberated", as the victorious faction claims, after a week-long "occupation". An

emergency meeting of the mosque's governing council ment. He never consulted, nevousted the director, a Moroccan er called any assembly meeting. technician called Khalil Mer- never constituted a manageroun, while he was on holiday and installed a new director and management committee.

The new director is Laredj Nizar, Algerian-born, and a senior probation officer attached to the local prison. The power behind him, judging by the defcommittee members, is Khadija Khali, a much-decorated Algerian war widow and French citizen, who is a member of the recently formed "High Council of French Muslims"

can barely be divined from the "It was nothing personal. It was

ment committee, wouldn't open the accounts to scrutiny," said Mrs Khali. "We will run every-thing with complete openness."

This mosque has been more than 14 years in the building, and it is still not finished," said the porter who showed me erence shown to her by other around. "Huge amounts of money have gone into it and now they are asking for more." The scandal of the unfinished

mosque is known throughout France. But the disgrace is felt keenly in Evry, because Evry Precisely what the Evry also managed to commission, mosque was "liberated" from fund and build France's first also managed to commission, new Catholic cathedral this words of committee members. century in less than half the time taken already by the mosque. A

last month was one of the last straws for the Muslims of Evry. "We felt the money was just vanishing," said the porter, sig-nalling with his hands the probability of individuals lining their pockets. "The mosque must be finished."

As the flags on the minaret suggest, there is much more to the takeover of the Evry mosque than allegations against the ethics or work style of Mr Merroun. It is also about Frenchness and the perceived threat of fundamentalism.

In late June, the French government authorised the mosques of Paris, Evry and Lyons to contract out and supervise the slaughter of Halal meat themselves. Hitherto, it had been a government function. Because

decree was seen as a test of legitimacy for Muslim leaders. Would parishioners sanction a big new source of income for the existing management?

At Byry, a powerful group got together and said "no". At Paris and Lyons, mosque leaders have come under such pressure that they may not survive. More Machiavellian observers see the government's move as a deliberate attempt to destabilise the Muslim establishment in France.

The advantages to Muslims of having a central structure are clear. Catholics and Jews have clear. Catholics and Jews have

struggle for control of the French mosques, lie in the terrorist attacks of last year, when it was demonstrated that numbers of second-generation North Africans were finding solace in spread that certain mosques could be marginalised. fundamentalism. The suspicion

and mullahs were using France as a recruiting ground. Since the beginning of this

year, voices have been raised and encouraged by pro-gov-ernment publications and lobbyists - in favour of a central structure for Islam in France, which would ensure a peaceful cohabitation with French culture. Those like Mrs Khali, Algerian born, but culturally French, had the encouragement they needed to "reclaim"

French Islam for France. The advantages to Muslims of Perhaps the real origins of the a recognised hierarchy and an official voice; Muslims do nor. For the authorities, the advantages are even more obvious. An unmanageable tangle of organisa-tions and self-governed mesques would be replaced by a single hi-erarchy – and fundamentalism

mayor

Bosnia's Big Bang alarms the local CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Loud explosions, each produced by four tons of high explosive, echoed across the quiet farmland of Serb controlled Bosnia yesterday. A chocolatebrown mushroom cloud, turning white at the top, soared 5,000 feet into the air. Even two miles away, the blast, filtered down the valley, ruffled the canopy on the back of a British army four ton truck before the

sound was heard. In the face of growing confrontation with the local Serbs, the peace implementation force (I-For) was continuing its Operation Volcano, the destruction of an astonishing 400 tons of munitions found in an unauthorised Serb arms dump in the old schoolhouse at Margetici, 25 miles east of Sarajevo, . Yesteday the local mayor demanded - and got - discussions with Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, commander of Nato troops in Bosnia and

deputy commander of I-for. To ensure nothing went wrong, 2,000 I-For troops-mostly French and Italians, with some British and Portuguese - had been deployed to secure the area, transport the offending ammunition, ensure the evacuation of people and an imals, and construct the excavations for its destruction.

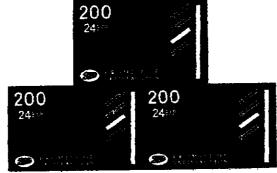
Such detonations are taking place three times a day, and the local people are not happy. Milan Inpajic, the tough-looking mayor of Sokolac, the nearest town five miles to the west. arrived at the press conference organised by I-For to put his side of the story. On Monday, Mr Tupajic said the explosions at one of the two prepared sites had to stop because they would damage a deep under-ground aquifer which is important to the area's water supply. I-for immediately stopped detonations at the site in question, the more westerly site 1. But yesterday it continaed to destroy the ammunition – anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, plastic explosives and small arms ammunition - at site 2, two kilometres northeast. Mr Tupajic was controlled but clearly determined. 'Site 2 is in the same area', he said. The water in one place is in the other place three hours later. I am an engineer but i am not a specialist. But you are soldiers. There are no geologists or hydrologists involved. I appeal to you again to postpone this operation.'

I-for officers at the scene yes-terday were flabbergasted that the Serbs would keep so much ammunition in such a place as a school house. Four tons makes a hole 7 metres deep and 24 metres across', said Lt Col Max Marriner, a senior I-For spokesman. Imagine what would happen if all 400 tons had gone off at once on the edge of a village'. General Walker said the unauthorised ammunition dump was by far the largest found in Bosnia. For comparison, 3,600 tons was held in declared sites. The offence, he said, was 'compounded by many violations', and for that reason I-For had decided to confiscate it and destroy it.

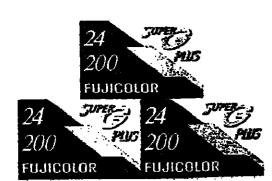
Three miles up a track, the Italians and French had prepared the six holes for the new blast in Operation Volcano. A hole at least two metres deep was dug, although old pits were also used. The area within a kilometre of the blasts had be cleared of people and animals. We had some trouble with cows and sheep', said Colonel Frere, the French expert in charge of the detonations. But they obeyed us, and went away'.



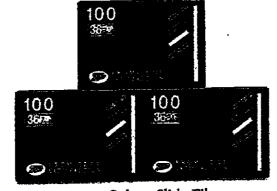
police stormed the building where they had been staging a protest and overwhelmed them



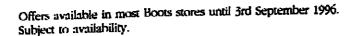
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Iraq behind bread riots, says Hussein

Patrick Coburn on a conspiracy theory which has no believers

Karak — King Hussein appeared in a confident, almost jaunty, mood as he blamed Iraq for being the hidden hand behind the riots which followed the decision of his government to double the price of bread.

The situation is wholly under control," the King told Jordanians in a television interview on Sunday night. "Everything has been very quiet in the coun-try." As for the rioters, who had burned banks and public buildings as symbols of government authority, they "were either educated in Iraq or had sympathies towards Iraq".

The theory of the Iraqi con-spiracy finds few believers in Karak, where the riots started after Friday prayers last week, or anywhere else. A local boy had a simpler explanation of what happened. He told a re-porter: "Karak is a poor town. l earn 70 Jordanian dinars (£70) a month to support my

mother and brother. How can I buy bread?" Although he is one of the most skilful political players in the Middle East, it is mysterious that King Hussein should appear so confident. For the riots are only the latest of a series of political and economic blows to hit Jordan over the last decade. Sandwiched between Israel, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia, the kingdom, with its 4.2 million people, and no oil, is al-ways the weakest player in the

Its economic prosperity is peculiarly vuinerable to diplomatic setbacks because it is dependent on foreign aid and remittances from Jordanians working abroad. Since the Gulf crisis, foreign aid from the US and the Arab oil states has largely dried up because of Jordan's refusal to join the alliance against Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, after his invasion of Kuwait. At the same time, Palestinian workers with Jordanian passports, many of ambassador to Amman spent whom have been residents in months trying to find somebody



Breadline: Khalaf Ahmmad, 52, buys loaves in Karak yesterday during a two-hour curfew

Kuwait for decades, have been forced to go back to Amman. Two initiatives in the last two years have failed to change this situation. In 1994, King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel. This raised expectations of a "peace dividend" in Jordan in the shape of foreign aid from the US and Europe, as well as more investment. Neither has been forthcoming in the quantities hoped for by Jorda-

In 1995, in the wake of the flight of General Hussein Kamel al-Majid, President Saddam's son-in-law, to Jordan, the King began to shift away from his previously friendly relations with Iraq. Restrictions were tightened on the road which is Iraq's lifeline across Jordan's eastern desert. Iraqi opposition groups were allowed to base themselves in Amman.

Again, little aid was forthcoming. King Hussein's policies towards Israel and Iraq may have made strategic sense by bringing him closer to Washington and Tel Aviv, but they were never popular. The Israeli

who would rent him a house. Even Jordanian dentists said they would not treat Israelis. As for Iraq, although President Saddam has lost the overwhelming popularity he enjoyed in Jordan on the eve of the Gulf war, he is still respected.

Jordan has inflicted more damage on Iraq's leaders than vice-versa over the last year. Not only has King Hussein said it is time for President Saddam to go, but in June Jordan was involved in an abortive conspiracy among army officers in Baghdad which ended in widespread arrests and executions. The Iraqi National Accord, an opposition group favoured by the CIA and Jordanian security and based in Amman, admitted its involvement.

Jordan's shift against Iraq has made it fearful that President Saddam might retaliate. Vengeance is often part of his pol-icy. But it is highly unlikely that Iraq's leader had anything to do with the riots in Jordan. Iraq has no alternative route to the road ronning through Jordan. If it comes, Iraqi retaliation is more likely to take the unsubtle form of a bomb, or a bullet.

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THE INDEPENDENT

summer of sport Wednesday 21 August 1996

Giddins banned until 1998

BOSINIA DAVID LIEWELLYN Big' Ball Ed Giddins, the Sussex fast bowler, was yesterday banned norths after the Test and for 19 months after the less and County Cricket Board found him guilty of taking cocaine, which showed up in a random drug test earlier this season.

The reconvened disciplinary committee hearing, chaired by

committee hearing, chaired by Gerard Elias OC, considered three charges: that Giddins had a prohibited substance in a CHRISTOPHER BELLE Parine sample; that he had knowingly used a prohibited substance; that by virtue of his conduct he had behaved in a manner which may bring the game of cricket into disrepute.

Legislate of Seth 02

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Legislate of S Larrolland of Serb of charges proved. They rejected brown and brown that he had ingested the drug inadvertent ingested the true mountained by, deciding that his taking of the drug was a deliberate act.

They concluded that the use

dante of a prohibited substance, and particularly an illegal drug, was a grave breach of regulations and something which had the In the lace of the potential to put at risk the safetrans and thrice ty of fellow players and officials. To that end the England A' bowler had his registration terminated with immediate effect and he is suspended from playthere is several and in any match under the juthe near New April 1998. That bars him from all first and second XI matches as well as Minor Counties cricket, but, under the current set up, the 25-year-old will be looked as if his career had just able to turn out in club and ben-taken off, with him going on last efit matches. The ban is certain, winter's England A tour. Things to become worldwide since the were going well for him." TCCB will be informing the.

boards of all the other countries

in the International Cricket

Council and will be looking for them to support it. The severity of the punishment for what is regarded as a social drug, rather than a performance enhancer, contrasts sharply with the fate of others in sport who have either failed the Sports Council-run random test or admitted their guilt. In November 1995, Arsenal's Paul Merson confessed to alcohol and gambling addiction and to having taken cocaine, and the Football

Association suspended him while he attended clinics for treat-ment; he was allowed to return to the game last February. Jennifer Capriati, the tennis player, was arrested for possession of drugs and spent a year in a re-habilitation centre, but she was never punished by the game's authorities for her misdemeanour.

The most celebrated "confessor" is the former England all-rounder Ian Botham, who was banned for two months in 1986 after admitting smoking cannabis. Four years ago, the TCCB accepted the explanation by the the then Worcestershire, now Yorkshire, left-arm bowler Richard Stemp that his drink had been spiked with amphet-amines. He went unpunished.

There are no hard and fast rules for sport's governing bodies to follow when meting out punishment. Although the Sports Council runs the drug test-ing scheme, which costs £200 per test, they leave the punishment to the respective governing body. A spokesperson for the Sports Council said of the ban on Gid-dins: "It is nothing to do with us, but in principle the Sports Council supports strong action against people who take drugs, because

we regard them as cheating." The TCCB underlined their attitude by insisting that they wanted to send out the following message: "[That] Cricket, its players and administrators, would not tolerate in its ranks those who indulge in the use of a prohibited drug. The committee was sure the public would rightly demand nothing less."

Giddins, nicknamed "Geezer" who sat through more than four hours of the hearing on Monday before it was adjourned until yesterday, left the TCCB offices after 25 minutes via a side door in an effort to escape the waiting media. Before being driven away. Giddins, who has 14 days in which to appeal. muttered: "I have absolutely nothing to say. I wish I could."

His older brother Charles, a golf professional at a municipal course in Hastings said last night: "He's going to be hurting inside. Cricket is his life. It seems a bit harsh and it is such a shame. It were going well for him."

Giddins's captain on that

tour to Pakistan was the Essex and England batsman Nasser Hussain. He said yesterday: There aren't that many quick bowlers around. It's disap-pointing. He will be missed." The Sussex secretary, Nigel

Bett, who said Giddins was rendered speechless when the sentence was pronounced, did not condone the player's actions, but having known him since his debut for the county in 1991, insisted: "There is no evidence that he has done this before or since. I think he's been misguided on this one occasion. I think anyone with the talent that Ed has is a great loss to the game."

He has taken 231 first-class wickets at an average of 30. The last 33 came with the hearing hanging over his head following the drug test in May.

An extrovert, Giddins numbers among a list of various previous jobs being a topless waiter in Australia. His entry in the Cricketers' Who's Who under "Overseas teams played for" includes Discovery Bay Hotel, Barbados and Bondi Surf, Sydney. Those sides may have an unexpected overseas player in their ranks over the next 19



Chairman's choice foiled by counties

DEREK PRINGLE

Cricket Correspondent

Lord's was awash with noise and cheer yesterday, a state of affairs that had everything to do with the final of the Lombard Un-der-15 World Challenge between India and Pakistan, and virtually nothing to do with the summer meeting of the Test and

County Cricket Board. The youngsters were there when an ill-behaved rabble of a crowd allowed them - to better their game, an ambition that could not safely be concluded of the first-class counties, who make up the bulk of the TCCB, and around whom the majority of cricketing decisions - if any are actually made more or less revolve. Their ret-

icence, once again, to take any of the bold choices on offer had more to do with them pulling on their customary blinkers than the impending creation of the new England Cricket Board.

Apart from tabling a few preliminary ideas over how the new ECB might work - a constitution that will not be ratified until the findings of David Morgan's working party have been discussed at ver another meeting scheduled for 24 September - they had gathered yesterday mainly to consider the recommendations of the Acfield working party, a report that was set up to take England to the forefront of world cricket and presumably into the 20th century by looking at how England teams are to be selected, managed and coached.

his advisors who have spent the best part of two months putting their report together, they tabled it as a series of packages rather than as a whole. Without a huge sweetener, they reasoned, small doses would prob-

ably be easier to swallow. For the most part they were right and the counties unanimously accepted all the party's recommendations over the setup and selection of its three subcommittees, with one exception: the chairman of selectors' right to withdraw players from county matches. They did however agree to "lend a sympathetic ear to the chairman of selectors" should he request Test players to rest during county matches and the officers of the board, Alan Smith and Tim Lamb, Fortunately for Actield and knew of no instance during the current season when a request

had been refused. It would not be the first time the counties have blocked anything really progressive that confronts their own despotic self-interest. However, on this occasion the reason is fairly understandable and while Test. players remain contracted to and paid by counties, little is likely to change until compensation is awarded - a matter the board's finance committee will be look-

ing into during the winter. The counties also rejected a motion by the cricket committee recommendation of banning overseas players for the 1999 and 2000 seasons. Apparently the counties felt that overseas players added quality to a game that was still much in need of it.

The moratorium on over-

rest day during the third Test against India at Trent Bridge. After complaints from all the counties with Test grounds, and consultation with the BBC, it was decided that there would be no rest day in any of the Test

seas players being signed be-youd 1998 will be re-assessed at

the board's December meeting

when another working party will

be set up to review the domes-

tic first-class playing pro-gramme. This comes a year

earlier than had been planned,

due mainly to the expiry of tele-

vision contracts which are re-ne-

In fact it was the BBC's cov-

erage of the Wimbledon men's

final that led to there being a

gotiated at the end of 1998.

matches next year. Apart from Sunday play, the only other major decision that

was passed without a squabble was the appointment of Sir Ian McLaurin to chairman of the TCCB, a post he is likely to occupy for two years from 1 October when Dennis Silk steps

McLaurin, who was elected unopposed, retires from his role as chairman and chief executive of Tesco. Apparently he comes with a reputation of disliking committees, so what he will make of the setting up of three new ones under the still to be set up England management committee is anyone's guess. Mine is that after a year in the job, he will probably be keener to stack shelves than to chair TCCB or ECB meetings where the counties are involved.

Tim Curtis, page 4



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL See page 10 to play today

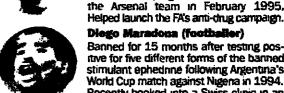
Sport and recreational drugs



Chris Amestrong (footballer) Tested positive for cannabis while playing for Crystal Palace on 23 January 1995. Underwent counselling and

missed four matches, including two cup semi-finals, before moving to Tottenham for £4.5m the following summer. Paul Merson (footballer) Admitted to using cocaine in a newspa-per interview on 25 November 1994. Escaped FA punishment after agreeing to

rehabilitation programme and returned to



Helped launch the FA's anti-drug campaign. Diego Maradona (footballer)

Banned for 15 months after testing positive for five different forms of the banned stimulant ephedrine following Argentina's World Cup match against Nigena in 1994. Recently booked into a Swiss clinic in an attempt to cure his cocaine problem.

Claudio Cannigia (footballer): Handed 15-month ban after testing positive for cocaine on 6 April 1993 following a Serie A game for AS Roma. Later resumed international career for Argentina, sconng twice at the 1994 World Cup. Lee Bowyer (footballer): Tested positive for marijuana as an 18-year-old trainee with Charlton in March 1995. Disciplined by the club and dropped from England's under-18 squad. Completed a £2.6m transfer to Leeds this summer.

Roger Stanislaus (footballer): Tested positive for cocaine after playing for Leyton Orient at Barnet on 25 November 1995. Sacked by Leyton Orient before being suspended by the FA for a year on 2 February 1996.

Craig Whitington (footballer): Huddersfield reserve who failed his second drugs test inside 10 months in January 1996, Banned by the FA on 10 April until 1 November 1996.



ian Botham (cricketer)

pended for two months from all first-class cricket from 29 May to 31 July 1987 for "bringing the game into disrepute by admitting to using cannabis, denying in the past that he had used cannabis and making public pronouncements without the clearance of his country



Jennifer Capriati (tennis player)

to the professional game 14 months later.

Arrested and charged with possession of cannabis at a Miami motel in May 1994, shortly after announcing that she would take a break from tennis. Attended a drug rehabilitation centre in Florida and returned



Michael Irvin (American footballer) The outstanding wide receiver of the Dallas Cowboys was convicted of cocaine possession by a Dallas court in June. A few weeks later he was banned for first five games of the coming season by the NFL



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Christie's European ambition has mixed reception

Athletics

SIMON TURNBULL

Linford Christie's reluctance to go, gently or otherwise, into that good night was welcomed with "mixed feelings" yesterday by the man in charge of Britain's track and field team.

Malcolm Arnold, the British Athletic Federation's director of coaching, revealed that he had

Games of Christie's desire to extend his international shelf-life chine churning out pre-meeting beyond what was billed as the captain's last hurrah for Britain, the Bupa Challenge match at Gateshead on Monday night.

"Linford told me in Atlanta that he would like to run in the European Cup next June," Arnold said. That prior knowl-

hype about the veteran's international farewell, which undoubtedly helped to sell all but 400 of 11,700 tickets.

"That is the responsibility of the federation's commercial and public relations department," Arnold maintained. The edge of what Christie made pub- morning after the night before, lic after finishing runner-up to Britain's head coach was more John Regis in the 200 metres on concerned about the future: known since the Olympic Monday did not prevent the one that, for him, next year will

him to Barcelona.

most important thing. It is not

only the quality of a player

which matters, but whether he

The Arsenal striker Ian

Wright revealed yesterday that

Houston and his coaching staff

did not speak to him for "three

or four days" after the player

spoke his mind on Rioch's con-

warts like Tony Adams, Paul Merson and Martin Keown

have publicly voiced their disapproval of Rioch's removal last

Monday, only five days before the start of the new season.

But Wright, who stunned Arsenal fans by putting in a

transfer request after a series of

spats with Rioch last season, in-dicated in a national newspaper

article last week he was not un-

happy to see the back of the for-

mer Bolton boss. He also

staunchly defended the club

vice-chairman David Dein, the

man seen by many as the prime

mind when Bruce Rioch got the

sack and some people didn't like

it. The players were happy, and

what has been said about the

boys having a go at me is crap.

blanked me. They didn't talk to

me for three or four days, but

I've always said what I mean and

if people can't take it they can

Rioch and I didn't see eye to

eye, but in the end I respected

him as a manager and wish him

Manchester City, who hope to

sign another Arsenal striker, Paul Dickov, for £750,000 are

ready to cut their losses on Scot-

tish striker Gerry Creaney and

sell him to Oldham for £300,000.

Jackson's stop-start loan move

to Queen's Park Rangers has fi-

nally been completed and he

will make his debut in Friday's

televised match at Portsmouth.

Keith Curle's hopes of mak-ing his debut for Wolves have

been hit by a new injury setback.

Curie has had his calf in plas-

ter and is likely to be sidelined

for at least another week. But

Wolves were cheered by the

news that striker Don Goodman

is set to be playing by October, six months ahead of schedule af-

ter fracturing his skull against Huddersfield in April.

The Everton defender Matt

well in the future."

"But the coaching staff

Wright said: "I spoke my

mover in Rioch's dismissal.

Houston and other club stal-

troversial sacking.

would fit in with the team."

pose the dilemma of whether to remain loyal to a 37-year-old icon or invest faith in the new generation of British sprinters.

"Linford will take his place in the queue with our other sprinters," Arnold said. "If he's good enough to get us eight points I'll take him to Munich." The Bavarian capital is the venue for the 1997 European Cup and Christie, should he make it to the start line in the Olympic Stadium, would be

chasing his eighth consecutive 100m victory in the competition. Not since 1985, when Lincoln

Asquith finished fourth in Moscow, has Britain picked a different sprinter for that particular job. Though Christie's reputation stopped him short of actually saying it, Arnold would not be disappointed to see a fresh face, such as that of Ian Mackie.

The 21-year-old from Dunfermline was inspired to take up the sport, under the guidance of

of the 100m at Gateshead, miss-John Macdonald, father of Lin-sey Macdonald, Britain's youngest-ever track and field Olympic medallist, when Christie signed an autograph for him alter a meeting in Edinburgh six years ago. Since returning from Atlanta, where he qualified for the 100m semi-finals, Mackie has been invited to join Christie's

the Olympic champion, Donovan

Bailey, until the final 20 metres

ing his personal best by 0.01sec with a time of 10.25. "I have got mixed feelings," Arnold conceded. "When Linford does go we'll miss him. I

the best from him. management company, Nuff Re-"You can't buck the ageing spect. He matched strides with

think people in this country don't realise what he's done. But I'd like him to go out in a dignified fashion and we've seen

process. That's what has hap-

pened with Linford's hamstring

coach. They'll have to carry him out of Thames Valley Harriers in a coffin. Linford's the same, "He loves the sport and he's finding it hard to let go. There has to be time, though, for the youngsters to be set free." That time, it seems, is not yet nigh.

man R

problems this year. The older you get, the quicker you get in-

jured and the slower you are to

recover. It's also difficult for him

to leave the regime he's had. It's

the same with Ron Roddan, his

Arsenal made to wait for Wenger

Football

Arsenal yesterday refused to officially confirm that 46-year-old Arsène Wenger is to become their latest manager. An announcement was expected from Highbury but the north London club have had their plans put on hold by the Frenchman's current club, Grampus Eight, with the Japanese seemingly unwilling to play ball over the long-term fu-

Wenger admitted: "It will be very soon, but I cannot say exactly when. Perhaps early next week. We have agreed, but they [Grampus Eight] want more time."

The former Monaco manager is under contract at Gram-

about to fire Rangers into a Champions' League place, hav-

ing admitted that he wanted to

matches, the Dutch forward

could be a key player today when the Scots play the Rus-sians of Alania Vladikavkaz.

3-1 lead into their preliminary

round second leg tie and are be-

the Alania coach, Valery Gaz-

zayev, and 40,000 locals in the

They are within 40 miles

from the border of war-torn Chechnya, but Smith insists the

match itself is high risk enough

for it to be his greatest concern.

And for van Vossen simply to be enjoying his football again is

an escape to victory after a tor-

Vossen, who moved first to Is-

tanbulspor in Turkey from Aiax

in the summer of 1995 and then

to Glasgow in January in a

swap deal for Oleg Salenko. He quickly inherited Salenko's mis-

fit tag at Ibrox, but over the

close season a heart-to-heart

I snoke to the manager and told

him I wanted to return to Hol-

land because I was homesick,"

"There were clubs at home

van Vossen said.

rid campaign last year. "It was the worst season I have experienced," said van

North Ossetia outpost.

Walter Smith's team take a

With four goals in his last two

Rangers ready

to reap reward

Peter van Vossen could be him if he thought I was a good

quit Ibrox during the summer. me suddenly. I could have gone

pus until November and the that he has been increasingly un-Gunners may be forced to extend the reign of caretakermanager Stewart Houston if Wenger is unable to secure his

Houston undertook a similar role when George Graham was sacked in February 1995 and took the club to the European Cup-Winners' Cup final. Wenger, though, may already be pulling the strings behind the scenes at Arsenal and is reported to have submitted a list of top-class players that he wants to challenge the likes of Manchester United, Newcastle and Liverpool for the game's honours.

His compatriot David Ginola has been linked with a move to the capital following reports

player and he said I might be,

back to Holland, but wherever

you go, you take your problems

with you. Right now, Rangers

Ally McCoist's inclusion may

rest on the fitness of Gordon

Durie, Who scored a

against Cypriots Anorthosis

Famagusta a year ago, has been

taking antibiotics for a chest in-

Champions' League stage -

worth some £5m to the qualifiers

- for the third time in five years

with their stars on a reputed

£30,000-a-man bonus as reward.

in 1992-93 when we pushed

Marseille for a place in the fi-

Alania, who are joint top of

the Russian League, will be

without Arthur Pageyev, sent off

at Ibrox, where Igor Yanovsky's

late penalty miss could prove

crucial. Rangers will be without

the suspended Paul Gascoigne

and injured pair David Robert-

This might be the best and

last chance for Rangers to reach

the final stages. Uefa, Europe's

governing body, plan to alter the

format of the competition and

the Scottish champions could

nal helped persuade Brian Lau-

drup to come to Scotland."

What we did four seasons ago

Rangers are reaching for the

preliminary round winner

are the best club for me."

"Now football is fun again for

but I had to prove it.

Anxious wait for **Mabbutt** stand-in

Tottenham's manager, Gerry Francis, hopes Stuart Nether-cott will be fit to play at the cen-tre of defence against Derby tonight in the absence of the settled at St James' Park after the summer speculation linking Wenger said: "He is a very good player for Newcastle, but the balance of the team is the team captain, Gary Mabbutt.

Nethercott suffered a gashed shin, which required seven stitches, after he came on at Blackburn on Saturday when Mabbutt broke his left leg. He has trained this week and could play with protective padding over the wound.

Darren Anderton picked up an ankle injury on saturday but he is expected to be fit, while Dean Austin is still out after a knee operation.

Derby managed a 3-3 draw against with Leeds on Saturday after falling two goals behind, and their manager, Jim Smith. is determined that his defence learns from their escape, "We won't be able to give too many teams a 2-0 start in this league and get a draw," he said. "Defensively, we were a bit naïve on Saturday and I also felt we could have used the ball better from the back."

The return of his Croatian sweeper, Igor Stimac, who missed the Leeds game with a back problem, will help Derby's cause. "We are going to need his quality and experience against a side like Spurs," be said.

Stimac was back in training vesterday and Smith said: "As long as there is no reaction, we anticipate that he will play."

The West Ham manager Harry Redknapp, has included the Portuguese attacker Paulo Futre in his depleted squad to face Coventry at Upton Park, alkiss my ass. I just wanted the though the former Milan playfans to know the situation as I er will probably start as one of saw it. Everyone knows Bruce the substitutes.

Peter Shilton is likely to be alongside Futre on the bench, although the primary duty of the 46-year-old former England international is to act as goal-

keeping coach.
Seven players, including the Romanian pair, Florin Ra-ducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu, and striker Tony Cottee, are out of action as the Hammers attempt to bounce back from their opening day 2-0 defeat at

Coventry's manager, Ron Atkinson, will put striker Noel Whelan through a fitness test before finalising his plans. Whelan suffered an ankle injury against Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

If Whelan is ruled out Andy Ducros, who came on for Whelan in the 3-0 defeat, will make his full home debut. Atkinson is also considering giving a debut to the Belgian full-back Reggie Genaux.



Grey strikes back with record

Paralympics |

Tanni Grev took revenge for her 100 metres defeat by Leann Shannon by beating the 13year-old American to retain her 800m title in a world record

time of 1min 55.11sec. Grey said: "I knew I had to go really hard to beat her. I had a few guys on the training track pushing me at really high speeds and after that I felt really confident. My tactics were to stay behind her. On the back straight I felt really good. I took her on the final bend and then it was easy. It's nice to know I haven't lost it. I didn't want to

Grey had unsuccessfully appealed against Shannon's inclusion in the 100m T52 because of the steel rods supporting her spine, which allow her to be more upright and thus in a position of more strength over the shorter distances.

Grey's medal was one of four golds won by Britain on the third day of the Games in Atlanta, taking Britain to third in the overall medals table with 11 gold medals, 12 silver and 11 bronze.

Also on the track, David Holding won the 100m T53 in a world record of 14.45sec and Stephen Payton took the 100m

Payton said: "I came out of

I knew I had won the gold. Now I have two golds I would like to make it three in the 200m." In the pool, Jim Anderson won Britain's other gold medal

in the S2 100m freestyle. Anderson, who finished ahead of his team-mate Alan MacGregor, said: "It is my first Para-lympic gold medal and I am delighted. I didn't expect to win. I am a bit emotional about it." MacGregor said: "The race

was so close and I knew I was coming back at him at the end.

46-31 by Japan.

Kathy Smith was in first coming back at him at the end. It's great we have won gold and Silver together."

Silver medals were also won by Sarah Bailey (400m S10) and Elaine Barratt (100m B2

the blocks first and from there breaststroke). Mark Wood overcame the effects of a chest infection to win a bronze medal in the 400m F10 freestyle, won by the popular Dutch swimmer Alwin de Groot.

In the men's table tennis team event, James Rawson and Neil Robinson also won a bronze medal. The men's basketball team suffered their second successive defeat, losing 54-47 to Spain. The women's team were beaten

place in the individual women's standings as ranking practice took place in the archery competition in preparation for the opening draw.

Hamilton anger at **Ukraine officials**

interested, but after my holidays find themselves playing not

I came back and had another one, but two pre-qualifying ties,

talk with Walter Smith. I asked starting next July.

with Smith salvaged his career. son and Alan McLaren.
"At the start of the summer This might be the bes

The Northern Ireland manager Bryan Hamilton has criticised the Ukrainian authorities for keeping him in the dark during the build-up to the World Cup qualifying match between the sides in Belfast next week.

Irish Football Association were to show them." not informed about a warm-up match the Ukraine played against Lithuania in Kiev last week - they won it 5-2 - from which he could have sized up the Windsor Park opposition. It leaves Hamilton with only

eight minutes on video of the Ukraine in action. But he remains hopeful that the players in his 18-man squad named yesterday may yet go into the Group Nine match a week on Saturday with more detailed knowledge of their rivals.

"They were supposed to notify us about any matches they were playing before they came to Belfast. That's the customary procedure and I'm very disappointed they didn't stick to it," Hamilton said.

"We could have had someone at last week's match and at present I know very little about the Ukrainians. An eight-minute tape of highlights doesn't reveal

But I'm not giving up. I think I'm close to finding another source who can come up with more extensive coverage of the Ukraine in action. I am bringing my squad together next Tuesday and I'd like to have Hamilton is furious that the more material on the Ukraine

Hamilton has recalled Leicester's Neil Lennon, French-based striker Phil Gray and Coventry's close-season signing Michael O'Neill to join up with the players who held European champions Germany to a 1-1 draw in Belfast in May.

Lennon did not play in that game as he was involved in Leicester's Premiership play-off final at Wembley a few days earlier, while Gray was in hospital for knee surgery.

O'Neill is back having been left out of the Germany fixture as Hamilton felt he was not in the best shape psychologically due to being in dispute with his former club, Hibernian. But there is no place for established internationals Alan McDonald, Steve Morrow and Gerry Taggart.

"We've widened our squad over the last year," Hamilton said. "There are now 24 players in contention so everyone is looking over his shoulder."

Athletics The International Amateur Athletic Ferieration yesterday said they had a strong case against the Australian printer Dean Capobianco over alleged steroid use. The 26-year-old proved positive for the an-abolic steroid stanozolol at a meeting in the Netherlands in May, but was al-lowed to run at the Atlanta Olympics ef-ter being cleared by an Athletics Australia hearing that ruled there could have been a mix-up or tampering with the test samples, Mearwhile the IAAF may strip na-tional bodies of their powers to punish drug offenders in the wake of cases file that of Capobianco and the Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacquia, who also competed at Atlanta after failing a test before the Games. The International Amateur Athletic Fed-

Rimper Antonella Bevelcque, who also competed at Atlantia after failing a test before the Games.

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Mayo (S) 23.20; 3 C Winghy 23.95; 4 T Joseph
24.14. 400m; 1, K Garbarn (S) 51.24; 2 P Smith
24.14. 400m; 1, K Garbarn (S) 51.24; 2 P Smith
25.56; 3 M Feare (S) 52.06.5; 4 G Chalapo 53.61.
800m; 1 1 Tumer (S) 20.65; 4 S Benyer
207.79; 3 V Lawrence 208.24; 4 N Bessley
(S) 2.11.42. 1500m; 1 L Pete (S) 4.09.24; 2
A Radolph (S) 4/14.28; 3 L Gleson 4:15.23; 4
C Peter 4:19.39; 3,000m; 1 P Radolph
25.25; 2 C Gordon (S) 51.20; 3 A Wyell
25.25; 2 C Gordon (S) 51.20; 3 A Wyell
25.199; 2 A Horn (3.04; 3 C Russer (S)
13.30; 4 J Agrapor (13.30; High (smar); 1 O
Mayo 190m; 2 L Heigen 1.85; 3 C Livingson
(S) 1.80; 4 W Dyesta (S) 1.75; Tiple (impor)
1 A Harrson 14.51; 2 C Frodes (S) 13.87; 3

M Griffit 13,73: 4 D Orrange (S) 13,31 Avealine
1 X Reyro (S) 63,64; 2 1 Lopez (S) 62,90; 3
T Sanderson 60,75; 4 D Leave 43,28, Manche
result: 68 113 International Select 121.
GREAT SEGUAIN TEAM (for World Junior Champlenethine, Sydney (Junior) 21,25; MERI100er: D Crembers, Hermon. 200er: C Mercom, U (Igno. 400er; C Desmins, K Stewert;
800er: T Lervill; 1500er: T Meyo, G Cuddy;
10,000m; A Jones; 3,000m steeplechaser: B
Whithy, K Nasit; 400m hardiser. C RobertsonAdem. M Protented: 110m bardiser. D Greavey. 1 Letwick 1500mm T Moyo, G Cuddy 10,000mm A Jones, G Cuddy 10,000mm A Jones, S,0000m strenglechasser B Whitby, K Nesty, 400mm hardiser, C Robertson-Asiam, M Rowlander, 110mm hardiser, C Robertson-Asiam, M Rowlander, R Daller, High Janey J Barriloy, B Challenger, Long James; N Mongary, Folia waster, C Linking, M Daniel, Javobbar D Parlier, Decadition: D Manory, Shot: C Hybracough, 46,000m rolley aquad: D Cambers, J Herritome, U Ugano, M Findley, C Malcolm, 46,400m rolley squared, G Osemen, K Stewert, T Lerwif, M Rowlands, C Robertson-Adam.

lands, C. Robertson-Adam.
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handler: D Bolton, S 2000m walls, Nigh Howley,
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Caston, Hapthaton; N Ganies; Dispass: P Roles;
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V Shipman, S Wilhelmy, S Caston.

Tests 10 Cleveland & Chicago White Sox 12 De-tool ?; New York Yarkees 10 Septile 4; Toron-to 2, Kensas City 1; Milmoulace 6 Alimnesota 1. MATIONNA, LEAGUE Colonado 6 Cincinnati 3; Flor-da 4 Chicago White Sox 3; Houston 2 Prosburgh 1 (m 13); San Diego 7 Montreet 3; San Fran-casco 5 New York Mets 4. Baskethall

Charles Bankley has joined the Houston Rockets from the Proentx Suns in a trade-off which saw four players go the other way. Bankley, 33, who has won an Ohmple gold medal with two "Dream Teams" but has never won an NBA title, is expected to pick up more than £3m in his first season with his new team.

Bowls

ALL-DIGLAND CHARTHONISHES (Worthing):
Fourn third young: Aldershot Traction to Dunlord bt Hylton Collery (R Bearld) 23-20; Ronsey (6 Topiner) bt Standees, Company (6 Resel)
21-20 (after extra end); Comes Medien (P Dunstan) to Blackhestin and Groematch (A Thoriston)
30-15; Carliele Countileté (T Taylon) bt SP Fetters
Municipal, Hartington (D Howsle); 31-11; Long
Saton Town (M Swith bt St Andesus Park and
(Ridne (P Hughus) 20-12; March Conservatives
(L Miller) in Woodbridge Hill (F Caigl (5-12; Box
(y Mospital (6 Worsen) bt Nottingham Cay (H Ha)
24-23; Garston (A Boden) bt Poole Park (R Portar)
25-12.

SPORTING DIGEST CHARRIPON HEADWEAR PONY CLIS DRES-SAGE CHARRIPONSTRIPS (Weston Park, staffi-val, Salopy; Team Cherphopulat, I. Garin Hunt 95/Qut: 2 East Easts Hunt 940; 3 Fride and Dis-rict 948. Winning teams. L Bedfett, L Cureton, G McLaughtin and A Papadaids.

Football NATIONWINDE LEASILE FOCURE CHANGES: Postported (International cal-upd: Taxes 27 Aug. Charlton & Stembighers: Sheffled (Ind + Haddersteid, Pri 30 Aug. West Bromach v Strelled Ind - Sat 31 Aug. Bramaginan v Bernsity; Manchester City v Charlton, Rearranged dates: Pri 30 Aug. Pymouth v Prestor. Take 2 Sapt. Marchester City v Charlton, San 13 Oct. Port Vale v Stoke. Wed 16 Oct. Port Vale v Cystal Palece. NORTHERN INSLAND (Works Cap specifier v Ulkraine, 31 August 31, Windoor Park, Bellianty: Festile (Nottingham Forest), Davisson (Bolton), Grattin (St. Johnspre), Wordsington (Stoke), House (Rockester United), Lowes (Marchester City), Luman (Lacester), Hagiston (Southampton), McMalabod (Incominal), O'Nell (Covernity, Gilleagle (Vercestic), Hughes (Mest Ham), Outle (West Ham), Gray (Manch, O'Boyle (St. Johnstone).
Northumbria Police vesterday connationimide league fixture chan

Gray (Vancy). O'Boyle (St Johnstone).

Northumbria Police yesterday confirmed that no tickets will be available for Newcastle fans for the North-east derby with Sunderland at Roker Park on Wednesday, 4 September. The 1,000 tickets that Sunderland had set aside for Newcastle fans will now be sold to Sunderland fans. Sunderland fens.

Colf Coun Montgomerie withdrew from this weekend's German Open yesterday after his father was taken N. The British golfer, champion in 1994 and 1995, has gone to Scotland to be with his father, James, who is the secretary at Royal Froon.

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Toronto): Engand U-21 61 Water 45.

Rugby League Brian Snepe, who transformed Salford during his chalimanship of the club between 1963-77 and who was chairman 1974-76, has died aged 81 et his home in the late of Man.

Pirst Division Wakefield have put a £125,000 price tag on Wayne Flynn. The 19-year-old three-quarter or loose toward, whose brother Adrian plays for Castleford, has been put on the transfer list at his own request.

Regiby Union
Scotland are set to announce a new
managerial structure today, following the
decision of Jim Teffer to step down as director of rugby.
Paul Dodge has been put in charge of Leicester Tigers' youth team after four years as the chib's assistant coach. The former England and Lion centre's new appointment follows the arrival of Bob Dwyer as the Tigers' coach.

Moseley, the Courage League Second Division mam, have secked their first team coach, Tony Lanaway, just two months efter his appointment as successor to Derek Nutt as he does not fit into the plans of new director of coaching Mark Anscombe.

TOUR MATCH (Potchefstroom, SA): West-em Transvael O New Zealand 31.

. IBA WOMEN'S CLASSIG (Carlsbad, Call) round: A Sugyarra (Japan) b: A Garakton

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The second round of the LTA Summer Satellite Masters at Havant was abandoned yesterday because of heavy rain. Both second round and quarter-finals will be played today.

> TODAY'S NUMBER -

16

The number of goals conceded - without scoring once- in the last five matches by Ajax, who begin their defence of their Dutch title today. They have been beaten by Milan, Juventus, Deportivo La Coruña and Chelsea. Their latest loss was a 3-0 defeat by Dutch rivals PSV Eindhoven in the Johan Cruyff Shield at the weekend.

The day Torquay began their climb to the top

BEING THERE

eceptio



We now know the Gulls as European champions, of course, but it all started in August 1996. Jonathan Rendall tells the story

were sitting in the glassfronted restaurant they have at the top of the San Siro; Kevin Hodges, the Torquay manager, still cradling the European

The nationals had been shut out for a change; on Hodges' orders, only the local papers were allowed to stay in - that was Simon and I exchanged looks as if to say. He knows that next year he will be wear-record buy Alan Shearer in a pre-season turned things around." how long will this last? Not even into next ing the colours of Inter, the team he has season's Champions' League, our eyes decided, but who could really blame the Gulls. "It's amazing

Behind Hodges and I, at the San Siro's flamingo-crystalled bar, the Torquay chair- had been. Without hesitation, he anman, Mike Bateson, stood his players a swered: "Plainmoor, Saturday 17 August round of beers. Hodges waved them over. 1996." Almost in unison, Gittens and Jack We were joined also by Dave, Torquay's murmured "Lincoln City", with far-away long-suffering fan from the old days and now looks in their eyes. Although Newland said, the team's talisman on European trips. He "D'you have to bring that up?" Hodges was wearing his trademark Ronnie Kray would not be swayed from his theme. "That was the one," he said. "The key. specs. "How you managed it with a crap ref like that, I don't know," Dave said with mock Remember we'd only stayed in the League ruefulness. "No, I'm pleased for you, Kevin. because Stevenage's ground wasn't up to I really am, mate.

One by one the players touched the cup, among them Norbert Lenk, the ex-Fortuna Düsseldorf and Roma striker, heir to Klinsmann, who had been Hodges' clubrecord buy the previous close season. Yet the presence of Lenk was misleading.

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Marie Color

Torquay's five-season rise from the specof course been well documented. But it is Even the Milanese waiters were crowding still startling to recall that the nucleus of the round listening, and at the end Norbert Lenk said to Hodges: "You know, boss, I off Third Division days at Plainmoor.

The remaining players – Ray Newland, Jon Gittens and Rodney Jack – touched the cup gingerly, as if it might still be an illusion and suddenly they would be transported below to the little state. back to the Nationwide League. But they Stand and Conference Centre is now, and needn't have worried. Their credentials are now known world-wide: Newland, England goalie and saviour of the night in Milan; Jack, scorer of the winner and now the most highly rated player in Europe, mobbed for livalked up from town to Plainmoor with autographs even by the Milan fans; and some of the Lincoln fans, who were fa-



"It's amazing," Bateson said. "I re-Looking out at the starry night sky over member back in '96 all the talk was why Milan, Hodges stroked the cup and said: didn't we get a sell-on fee when Lee "Unbelievable. Five years ago we were bot- Sharpe went from Man U to Leeds. Now tom of the League, and now this. It makes it seems like, well, total peanuts, to be

I asked Hodges what the turning point

"I remember," Bateson interjected with

an amused shrug. "And don't forget Lincoln had beaten us 5-1 the season before," Hodges went on. "So it was crucial." He paused enigmatically before adding: "Absolutely crucial." We thought back to that day, our re-

tre of the Conference to the Premiership membrances coming out. The European Cup lay on one of the chairs between us. really wish I had been there."

lainmoor was very different in those lainmoor was very different in those days, of course. There was a kiddies' playground where the Paul Baker you could find a parking space within 200 yards of the ticket office. Not that there were any tickets. This was one of the old

mously hard to impress. The Imps had just

played host to Newcastle and their then- on loan from Wimbledon, we might have game, and the Imps fans hadn't been im-

'It's Andy Cole all over again," one said. "And he was worth about as much as a bag of coal."

"Forget the Toon Army, loony tunes is what it is," said another, with what turned out to be oracle-like accuracy, given Newcastle's relegation that term.

Our English Riviera didn't impress them, either, and it was clear that only a repeat of the 5-1 thrashing would compensate them for the long journey. "I can't wait to get

home to Lincoln," one Imp fan confided. "I feel like I've been here years already." Indeed, in public even Hodges was cau-tious about his players' chances before the

match. "Most of them know what to expect and the most important thing is for them to conceatrate throughout the whole game," he shrewdly told Simon Mills in that morning's *News*.

you think' I joined the super-fan Dave to watch the teams warming up. He was wearing the Ronnie Krays even then, but, unsurprisingly, his fea-tures lacked the serene quality that they have since attained. Lincoln played a brutal long-ball game that required tremendous fitness, and we watched with some fore-

boding as the Imps players performed a se-

ries of sprints, despite the almost Mediterranean heat. "Obviously, you get bitter when you're bottom of the League," Dave said. "But you've got to remember that if it wasn't for Mike Bateson coming in, this club proba-bly wouldn't exist. And if Dean Whitehouse hadn't missed two open goals when he was

It is sobering to recall that Dave then fordly invoked the, to him, crowning mo-ment in Gulls history up to that point: 1990, the Leyland DAF Trucks Trophy at Wem-bley, and the 4-1 defeat by Bolton. "We took 20,000 to Wembley for that one," Dave said

"And where are they now?" I observed, surveying a Plainmoor crowd that I estimated at around 2,645.

"If we knew that we wouldn't be in all the trouble we're in," Dave said.

Ripples of concern were felt among the Gulls faithful as Ray Newland, deputising for the now unfairly forgotten Rhys Wilmot, fumbled a practice corner. An aghast Newland then let a dribbling shot from the

No 3 keeper Matthew Gregg slip through his hands into the net, when the ball had approached at a mere 3-5 mph. "It doesn't look good, does it?" Dave said.

and now this. It makes This was no slight on Newland's prodigious talent, but as another Gulls fan

remarked at the time: "The only player who can beat Ray Newland is Ray Newland him-self." For back then Newland, unthinkable though it seems now, used to have his occasional off days. As he kicked the hall back to Gregg, despite his exterior jocularity, it was clear that Newland was wrestling with his inner demons, but thankfully the Imps were too busy doing more sprints to notice. On such crazy paving stones of fate are gold-en futures laid. In the first quarter the aerial bombardment from the Lincoln midfield was unrelenting. Three times in the first 20 minutes the ball went over the West stand

Worse, the referee had already booked two key Torquay men, not only Gittens but also Baker himself, after an innocuous challenge which sent an Imps defender down

Old Trafford," a Gulls fan quipped as the Lincoln No 3 made a miraculous recovery and trotted back. Incredibly, the northerner Baker, his 33-

year-old blond crop glistening in the sun, was not even a definite Gulls player that day. "He's having to commute," Dave said. "He's got to find a house for his wife, and it's not easy. Where he comes from 40 grand virtually buys you a mansion. Travel is our

as if shot. "He's obviously been training at

worst enemy. So incensed were the Gulls supporters by the card-happy ref that they failed to notice the helping hand he had in the first Torquay goal. As the Gulls prepared to take a freekick by the opposing corner flag, referee D'Urso pointed out that the said infraction had actually taken place some five yards near-

er goal, on the edge of the Imps' box. From the newly placed kick, Gittens slot-ted home with a sweet side-foot. "There's only one Johnny Gittens," sang the crowd. But failure, as they say, breeds the expectation of it, and the mood was far from crowing at half-time as we queued for our then-traditional portion of chips: crisp on the outside, creamy in the middle and grease almost non-existent in the old handy cardboard cones - still the best chips I have experienced in domestic or indeed international stadiums. "I hope you're going to put the crapness of the ref in your report," Dave said rather unfairly as we re-

The rest is history. Newland's nerves were suddenly exposed when, going to tip over a speculative punt forward, he instead missed the ball and collided with the rear stanchion. This time the Imps did not miss their cue. High ball after high ball was curied in, their burly rearguard massing in the the Gulls' box. Another missed cross and . . . it was 1-1.

At this point, most in the crowd would have settled for the draw. I going up from as early as the 76th minute. But Hodges still had his dream. And at that precise moment he executed the master-

stalwart Garry Nelson, and on came Rodney Jack. Of course, Jack was only a kid back then. No one knew quite what to expect as he jogged on with his dreadlocks bouncing in the summer air. "Nice haircut," one Gulls regular observed. "But has the kid got the

stroke that would realise it. Off came the

We did not have that long to find out -14 minutes and 32 seconds, by my reckoning. It was the first minute of injury time. A languid back-pass from the resigned Imps seemed safe enough as it trickled back to their underrated keeper Barry Richardson. Suddenly, from nowhere, Jack appeared on the ball. Two defenders had galloped back. Jack dummied one, then shimmied past the other and shot.

The game Richardson got a foot to it. but this was just a passing caress as the hall kissed the back of the net. Ref D'Urso blew for time. Hodges leapt from the dug-out. The crowd erupted. It seemed like a lot of people back then. And the Gulls faithful inked arms three-abreast and went out rust the playground singing "Rodney Jack, Rodney Jack, Rodney Jack, . . . "

Of course, those singing lads are now mere specks in the sea of faces you see at the new Plainmoor. But as Hodges and I ambled out of the San Siro with Bateson. Dave, Gittens, Newland, Jack and Lenk the Gulls manager paused and confided: "You know, talking about those days, the funny thing is you almost want to go back

"Really, Kevin?" I said.

"Nah." Kevin chuckled, and then, quite understandably rejecting my request for a lift, sped off in the limo towards the

The mouthy mayor and his mattress boys

Jesus Gil y Gil, the owner of Spain's the Spanish football federation chief "a maffa boss, a cancer in the world Atletico Madrid, displays the ex-travagant bulk and behaviour of the late Robert Maxwell. Under Gil's eccentric, often hysterical, leadership, Atletico finally won through to the European Champions' League, fulfiling a dream cherished since he bought the club in 1986.

"Aleti", the working-class rivals to smarter Real Madrid, is the passion into which Gil pours huge quantities of his self-made fortune. One of his long-running feuds is with Ramon Mendoza, Real's supremo, whom Gil once accused of orchestrating a bur-glary at his country estate. "Whoever doesn't like Atletico in the lead," he

said recently, "can die."
Gil, also the idiosyncratic Mayor of Marbella, has been constantly in trouble for his foul language and loutish behaviour. Spain's professional football league has banned him until February 1997 for punching a manager - a sanction he shows

little sign of respecting. In the 1993-94 season, when Atletico faced relegation, he called

ish referees' chairman as "a shepherd fit only to tend sheep and goats".

In 1990, Uefa, European football's governing body, banned him for two seasons for calling a French referee a homosexual. In 1991, the Spanish FA fined him £16,400 for telling a referee he should visit a psychiatrist. Last season, he racially insulted his

own Colombian player Adolfo Valencia, threatening to "cut his black head off". He was "only speaking figuratively", a contrite Gil said when calmer. In the latest row, in April, he punched the manager of Compostela after a shouting match in which Compostela's owner said Marbella's voters "must be stupid".

Gil's belligerent style goes handin-hand with what former managers call his complete ignorance of football. "I might as well advise him on how to run Marbella," complained the Argentine Alfio Besile, who bowed out after four months in June 1995. Gil's current manager, the Serb Raddy Antic, broke records **SPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY**

Atletico Madrid's owner is no stranger to scandal, write's

Elizabeth Nash

by surviving an entire season. Gil, who gulps down eight fried eggs at a sitting, has in nine seasons devoured 20 Argentine, English and Spanish managers. Some lasted only days. One had a nervous breakdown. Another said the players, ruled by fear, walked a daily tightrope over

a lake of crocodiles. Jesus Gil, 63, was born in Burgo de Osma, 100 miles north-east of Madrid. At 17, he shared a boarding house with a priest and 19 prostitutes,

lorries and eventually property.

'Unbelievable. Five

years ago we were

bottom of the League,

In 1969, an apartment block he built in Segovia collapsed, killing 58 people. It had no plans, no architect and no surveyor, and the cement was barely set. He was jailed for criminal negligence for five years in 1971, but after 18 months the dictator Franco pardoned him. He borrowed money and started again, some say with an enduring chip on his shoulder.

Marbella, glitzy playground for rich Arabs and Russians, with possibly the densest concentration of powder-blue fringed suede cowboy boots in Europe, caught his fancy in 1979 when he attended a local weight-loss clinic. He homed in with his property deals with such disregard for the regulations that in 1988 laughed at imbeciles." the Socialist town council declared him persona non grata. His way round that was to stand for mayor. He created his Independent Liber-

al Group (GIL) party and won a landslide victory in 1991. He promised to clear prostitutes

keeping the establishment's accounts off the streets and corral them into in lieu of paying rent. He mended a purpose-built "whore-odrome", and adopted Franco's ruse of boosting public thermometers a degree or

three to encourage tourists. One night in August 1991, he descended upon Marbella's harbourside bars with his bodyguards and started haranguing the youngsters. "What a drink-sodden face you've got sonny." he bellowed. "How much have you spent on drugs today? You're dross and I'm going to get rid of you. Drunkards! Slugs!" Several people were injured in scuffles and a police car was burnt.

Gil's business deals have so prospered that he claimed last month to have lost all respect for money because he had "too much". He bought a mausoleum in Madrid's Almudena cemetery with a garden and room for 69 bodies, and favours the epitaph: "Here lies a brave man who

Pans of the Colchoneros ("mattress boys"), so-called for the red-andwhite striped mattress-ticking that inspired Atletico's strip, don't mind the braggadocio. While Gil is on a winning streak, they love him.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 10 COACH

As in sport, so in language, there like some Mission Impossible agent, are no winners without losers. If could be thrown to the sharks or the "coach" is the rising star, its defeated adversary is "manager". There is a cruel Darwinian logic governing the sporting lexicon:

managers are a dying breed, while coaches are multiplying like rabbits. The life of the word "coach" in Britain falls into two distinct periods. Before and After Venables. In the managerial golden age of 1966. no one would ever think of calling Sir Alf Ramsey 'coach". He was manager as God. A coach was something the England team trav-elled to Wembley in. The team had a coach or coaches on the field, too. and worthy men they were, running on with buckets and sponges. But the manager—the generalissmo, the macsuro—was there to supervise tac-

tics, strategy, formation, destiny.

Even Graham Taylor was still a manager. Then Terry Venables took over and "manager" was out and coach was in Maybe it had some thing to do with potential legal com-plications. "Coach" had the virtue of deniability: if it all blew up, Venables,

could be thrown to the sharks or the Sugars - hey, he was never really England manager anywayl Maybe it was modernisation. Taylor was the Stakhanovite, with his emphasis on sheer industry and productivity. Venables would give creativity and flair a chance. There was never any question of Glenn Hoddle becoming manager - he went straight in as coach. Coaches are taking over. Managers are not sexy.

The word is an American reimport. There is a justification for this evolution. A coach is more hands-on, he does not fear getting his boots dirty. A coach wears a tracksuit not a suit and tie. Coach is classiess.

Personally, I regret the passing of "manager", with its connotations of Ramseyian wisdom and vision and dignity. There is an element of nostalgia in this. But there is another drawback to the Americanism. In the television soap opera Cheers, "Coach" was an amiable, ageing imbecile.

Andy Martin

Counties must put England first

The Actield Report is not an aweinspiring document. This should not be seen as a criticism of the luminaties in the working party: more that there was actually not that much which could be done to improve the management of English cricket.

One essential fact was grasped, however, which was that this management must be free from the sometime parochial interests and influence of the first-class counties. Hence their cornerstone recommendation of an England Management Committee to run all aspects of England's international cricket. To quote from the report: "The working party recommends that the EMC be delegated by the TCCB [Test and County Cricket Board] to decide on and implement all aspects of the selection, management and

administration of England teams." Autonomy for the EMC is essential if it is to work. It is the sort of power which I believe Raymond Illingworth and Ted Dexter both sought and which often comes with an authority of one. Yet the working party recognised the inherent difficulties of this dictatorial approach and instead opted for a committee, but'

one which could be autocratic in its

powers because of its independence

from the TCCB. It would have "del-

egated" powers for "all aspects". Now we find, however, that on the point which most players would regard as the most important, the TCCB have clipped this new committee's wings. The chairman of the EMC will not have the right to withdraw players from county matches if he deems it necessary.

Tim Curtis, chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association, says the Acfield Report is a step in the right direction

erage playing two days out of three throughout the year whilst his Australian counterpart, Glenn Mc-Grath, will play only one out of

Our own experience at Worcester this year does not help my argument, in that Graeme Hick's omission from our line-up for one game did not lead to renewed and refreshed success for him. However, Worcester in an enlightened manner recognised the pre-eminence of the national side. Only if this spirit proliferates will we bridge

Dominic Cork will continue to avthis county versus country divide and ruprove our national team's chances

> Other aspects of the report address this same central problem of club pulling in the opposite direction from country. I am delighted to see in the report that, whilst the TCCB will continue to nominate candidates to sit on the various committees and act as selectors, the EMC retains the right to select from outside these nominations. This, combined with the payment of selectors, should ensure the best possible people are involved. It is not

simply a question of people being proach to selection and manage put forward who have served their ment. time in a county administration and deserve a chance or who. through being retired or personal financial circumstances, have the time and opportunity to fulfil such roles. The basis for selection for these crucial roles will be broadened and quality should emerge as the de-

termining factor. Further to this, the continuity of the EMC's selection process between Under-19, 'A' and full England teams should improve matters greattoo often it seems local county favourites have been rewarded after a good season. Again, the county interests, a pat on the back for having done well, come before a hard-headed, forward thinking ap-

In this question of selection and the central concept of a management committee the Acfield Report grasps a significant nettle. In other areas it is notably woolly, spawning four committees to implement its various plans, and I would not have thought that the process for selecting the England scorer for each tour worthy of quite so much debate.

Perhaps the wooliness was an attempt to disguise and slip through the crucial point of the indepenly, particularly in the 'A' team where dence of the EMC. It didn't work. The TCCB's refusal to allow the EMC ultimate powers is disap-pointing evidence that the differences between club and country will continue to undermine our international efforts.

Lawless **Essex still** looking dangerous

THE WEEK AHEAD

James Whitaker, hoping to lead Leices-tershire to their first County Championship for 21 years in his first season as captain, reckons five factors will determine one of the closest and most fascinating title races.

The winners, he believes, will be the side whose progress is least disturbed by injuries and England call-ups, and who find favourable pitches and enjoy the best back with the toss and the weather.

What he did not mention was the cffect of call-ups to the Australian side currently preparing for the Singer Cup in Sri Lanka, which may well have a direct bearing on the effectiveness of two of the challenging group. The limited-overs tournament, which runs until 7 September, deprives Yorkshire of Michael Bevan and Essex of Swart Law

It may be argued that Yorkshire's dream is already dead, the ensiwhile leaders having dropped 27 points behind with four consecutive defeats. This may be true, but a recovery would have

been more likely with Bevan present. In the case of fifth-placed Essex, however, the loss threatens to undermine their best form of the season, a run of four consecutive Championship victories, which has prompted those sceptical of the Midland challenge represented by Derbyshire and Leicestershire to speculate that the biggest threat to Kent and

Surrey may come from Chelmsford. Essex have been impressive lately, with two victories by an innings and another by 292 runs among their recent haul. Law, the 27-year-old all-rounder from Brisbane, has made a major contribution, scoring 363 runs at an average of almost 73 in this period, lifting his aggregate for the season in first-class matches to 1,361

runs - 43 more than Graham Gooch. It is in Essex's favour that they finish their programme with two fixtures at headquarters, against spent Sassex and unthreatening Glamorgan, by which time Law will be available again, it required. In the meantime, however, Essex must negotiate what they are reject to the most difficult matches. will be more difficult matches against Gloucestershire at Colchester, starting tomorrow, followed by Yorkshire at Headingley and Warwickshire at Edghaston.

Essex have a 20-point gap to close on the surprise leaders Derbyshire and 18 on second-placed Kent but have a match in hand on both. Dean Jones's team, who went top when victory over Nottinghamshire on Monday gave them six wins in eight rounds, take a breather now before returning to face Worcestershire at Chesterfield, Somerset at Taunton, then

Warwickshire and Durham at Derby. Kent, who would have had a comfortable lead had rain not deprived them of a probable win at Derby in late July, go to Cardiff tomorrow and meet Nottinghamshire at Timbridge Wells next week before sitting out a round, concluding against Hampshire at Can-terbury and Gloucestershire at Bristol.

India's problems began much earlier, as they did against South Africa. This time they were 19 for Having suffered the ignominy of the 2, and again Sodhi and the wicketwooden spoon last season, Kent's coach, Daryl Foster, believes amends can be keeper, Pardeep Chawla, were in-Daryl Foster, believes amends can be made in the most handsome fashion, but confidence is also high in Surrey (third) and Leicestershire (fourth), each of whom, like Essex, have five matches left. Surrey, at Trent Bridge tomorrow, lose Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe to Test calls but will probably ask Chris Lewis to dash north if not required at The Oval. The Texaco Trophy may mean all three missing next week's clash with Warwickshire at The Oval, where Northamptonshire and Worcestershire are also due before the season is out. tegral to the recovery. Extras, too, were a great help, providing a quar-ter of the tea-time total of 101 for Once again, though, the break broke the batsmen's concentration. Chawla, who had been dropped

are also due before the season is out, with Glamorgan at Cardiff in between. Leicestershire, for whom Whitaker is

poised to return from a calf muscle injury, take on Hampshire at Grace Road, starting tomorrow, with two more matches at their headquarters, against Somerset and Middlesex, sandwiching trips to Nottinghamshire and Durham. on. Suddenly the heroes looked like 15-year-old boys. Sodhi was the exception. Batting or bowling he is a class player, and with an unbeaten 82 to add to his three wickets for 24 runs, the captain carried his side to World Cure closs. Three times Policitan's starting tomorrow, with two more matches at their headquarters, against Somerset and Middlesex, sandwiching trips to Nottinghamshire and Durham. Sunday's AXA Equity and Law League programme finds second against first when Nottinghamshire and Surrey meet at Trent Bridge while Wornester. meet at Trent Bridge, while Worcester-shire (fifth) and Warwickshire (fourth)

boundary, but it was to no avail. In the end the "Zindabads" were silent scores: Psistent 222 to 7 (55 over; Haman Rate 80); India 223 to 6 (52.4 overs; R Sochi 82no). Notis — face Lancashire at Headingley. shire – on equal points with Headingley.

Notts – face Lancashire at Headingley.

Jon Culley however, concerned more than the If Giddins has a drug problem, he should have been treated

Bazid Khan, of Pakistan, is caught behind by the Indian wicketkeeper, Pardeep Chawla, in the Under-15 World Cup final at Lord's yesterday

2 after 25 overs.

Two overs into the final session

second ball at first slip, drove Imran

Qadir's googly to short extra cover. When Mohammad Kiaf was

stumped in the 30th over, the ball spinning back off his bat after he had

danced down the pitch to Shoaib Ma-

lik's off spin, there was no contain-

ing Pakistan's vociferous supporters.

than four an over, the pressure was

Cup glory. Three times Pakistan's supporters came flooding over the

Now, though India required more

Lord's given a glimpse of the future

Ironic, isn't it, that while the great and the good of county cricket gath
It concerned the whole approach to ered at Lord's to peddle their solipsisms and sophistries in shuttered chambers, the future of the game was right out here for all to see. And it to some extent Sri Lanka, have wasn't English. It was Asian, with India and Pakistan contesting the final of the Lombard World Challenge the under-15 World Cup. Both had come to Lord's unbeaten in the two-

Ironic? Certainly. But not sur-prising. I've played Taps for English cricket too many times to be blowing my own trumpet, but I wrote back in 1991 that cricket was going this way. Not many will have read it then - and probably no one connected with the running of English

Commenting on a projected tour of Sri Lanka by Australia and New Zealand in July and August that year, I wrote: "Such a programme means that the mid-year months are no longer an English preserve and opens the way for a power base in-corporating the Asian and Australasian countries, with South Africa close enough to support it. Such an alliance would threaten England's traditional hegemony."

What we witnessed yesterday,

what cricket is. It can be the manifestation of a nation's spirit, and from the way India and Pakistan, and played in this tournament, the teenage Asian spirit is an unfettered bird compared with the sons of non-

conformist Anglo-Saxon stock. So with their supporters yestercutta or Labore, rather than Lord's. They were raising the roof of the Mound Stand with their impassioned "zindabad (long live) Pakistan" choruses and their shrilling and whistling for every run scored and every ball fielded.

My first sighting of India, two weeks ago beside the Thames in Ted-

As two Asian countries contest the final of the Under-15 World Cup, Graeme Wright examines the threat to English hegemony

bowlers bending the ball away from the English batsmen with all the skill of a Srinath or Prasad. There was also a slow left-armer in a maroon day - you don't hear noise like this at a county game. With their flags and chants this could have been Caldays when spin was the kernel of the Indian attack. Their batsmen, as they showed against South Africa in the semi-finals, could be unstoppable. Needing 263 to win, and reduced to 9 for 2, they came out with bats blazing after tea at Trent Bridge and won by five wickets.

In England's two games that mattered, first against India and in their semi-final against Pakistan, they

dington, was of slim-line swing displayed grit and determination in the field to claw their way back after the Asian batting had gone off at a rare old pace. From 156 for 3 they pegged India back so well that the Indians won by only one wicket in the last over, Against Pakistan they took the last six wickets for 17 runs, only when batting to fall 90

runs short of Pakistan's total of 208. In each case the effort came too late. England's young cricketers need to learn to be on the attack from the start, both physically and psycho-

logically.
Pakistan's 222 for 7, after they were put in to bat, revolved around

80 in 109 balls by the opener, Hassan Raza. Initially he played second fiddle to his fellow opener, Taufeeq Umar, a left-hander gifted with delicious timing on both sides of the problem. wicket. India's captain, Rettinder Sodhi, broke that stand, and came back at the end with two more wickets. But it was their off-spinner, Ishan Ganda, who prevented Pak-istan building a formidable total on a lunchtime base of 120 for 2 from

Hit for 11 off his first four balls after the interval, Ganda bowled Faisal Iqbal as he tried to sweep the fifth. Eight overs later, Raza hit him straight to cover. When he drew the threatening Jamisar Khan down the pitch beaten in the air and had him stumped, Pakistan at 178 for 5 were left with a lot to do in the remain-

Five youngsters who may have an international future

James (England)

An accomplished left-handed opening betsman from Sher:

An all-round sponsorant from Mag

A

as Paul Merson was by the FA, with sympathy and firmness

Last week the Test match ended on Monday evening, and by 10.30 next morning six England players were playing in a semi-final for their counties. The man responsible for this curious arrangement. Tim Lamb, is about to be rewarded with the top job in English cricket - chief executive of the Test and County

on Ed Giddins, the Sussex player noted for his fast bowling and fast

At The Oval this weekend, the living who had failed a drug test earchances are that England will lose lier in the season. The committee, to Pakistan. But don't worry: there chaired by Gerard Elias QC, deis still one department of the cided to ban Giddins from profesgame in which we lead the world sional cricket for the whole of next the ability to run things really season. For good measure, he was sacked by his county.

The double whammy would have been harsh but justified if Giddins had been convicted of using performance-enhancing drugs. But the drug in question was cocaine, the positive effects of which would last for about two overs. One day, no doubt, a laboratory somewhere will come up with a tablet that makes Cricket Board.

Yesterday the board's disciplinary committee met to pass judgement at the moment cricket is drugproof.

What it is not, alas, is idiot-

proof. I have not met Gerard Elias QC, and have no reason to doubt that he is a fine legal brain and a cricket lover who has only the best interests of the game at heart. You just wouldn't know this from his judgements. There have been two of them this season and they have both been ridiculous.

Giddins's drug taking was evi-dently social. Yes, he was breaking the law, but only in a small way, the law, had it caught up with him be-fore the TCCB did, would probably have taken a relaxed view and let him off with a warning.

Yes, he was setting a bad example, but in an even smaller way. If Elias thinks that the young people other. Kids who are innocent and Elias thinks that the young people of today take their cue from county cricketers, then he is even more enced by Sussex seam bowlers are colm, who had broken his TCCB



TIM DE LISLE

out of touch than this judgement makes him look. Young people are influenced by pop stars, film stars, old-fashioned enough to be influ-

far too innocent and old-fashioned to know that coke is anything other than a drink, let alone where to get it and what to do with it.

If Giddins has a drug problem, he should have been treated as Paul Merson was by Arsenal, with firmness and sympathy. If he doesn't have a problem, he should have been given a stern warning as to his future conduct.

Which is exactly what Raymond Illingworth should have got when he was hauled up before Elias in June. Illingworth's crime was to have broken the confidentiality of the selection process, by writing a book and some newspaper articles re-plying to Devon Malcolm's articles criticising his management. Mal-

tour contract, was let off with a shut, was found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and fined £2,000.

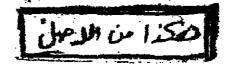
He has been wandering about like a wounded bear ever since. Every wicket Malcolm takes for Derbyshire adds to the feeling that Illingworth must take most of the blame for their falling-out. But that is one thing, and the subsequent war of words is another. Illingworth, more than anyone in cricket except perhaps Ian Botham, likes to have the last word. By answering Malcolm's broadside, he was only doing what came

naturally. Illingworth leaves the game - for Cricket Monthly.

good, he says - in two weeks' time. Giddins is probably lost to it, though it would be a shame: a man who is described as having disconcerted some of his team-mates with his independent way of life sounds like just what county cricket needs. And both departures could so easily have been avoided.

With not just a new chief executive but a new chairman, too, inthe shape of Tesco's Sir Ian MacLaurin, now is the time to take a hard look at the TCCB's disci-plinary procedures. "Bringing the game into disrepute" is a phrase so stuffy, nebulous and archaic that it brings the game into disrepute itself.

Tim de Lisle is editor of Wisden



Lawless' dangerou

THE WEEK

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In any case, it's all he's ever aspired to aght from his days growing up on the South Coast, dreaming saintly dreams of

the cricket pages 5

Essex st A new lease of life for the far pavilions



Part of the British way of life: the 70money to make improvements; the pavilion at Woodgreen CC, in Hampshire, boasts a new extension; and Ripley

here is glorious compensation for a brief innings at the North Devon Cricket Club: the view of the sea as you walk to the wicket and the sight of the pavilion as you return shortly after. No wonder touring sides head for Instow. The mouth of the River Torridge is a few yards from the boundary line and an occasional recipient of sixes, while the 18th-century pavilion is one of the oldest in the country and, according to the recently retired club secre-

tary Bill Pain, "one of the prettiest".

The Grade II-listed building was originally put up as a barn for animals and then converted to a cricket pavilion in the 1830s. It comes with all facilities, but inside you can still look up from your cream tea to the thatch and beams of the roof above.

Save for an extension on the front, there has been little structural alteration over time, which is the same that could be said of the 70-year-old cricket pavilion at Hurstbourne Priors, near Andover, in Hampshire. An attractive, wooden building with a thatched roof,

it has no heating, no lighting, running water or bar. The club's 20 paid-up members and their visitors use it almost exclusively for changing and then move to the village hall for teas.

We'd like to have an extension to give us basic amenities for the 21st century," says Martyn Page, club chairman. "In this day and age, you should at least be able to get a shower." The cost of providing showers, toilets and a small kitchen area is estimated at £35,000. Hurstbourne Priors is now preparing an applica-tion to the Sports Council's Lottery Sports Fund, which is where Pateley Bridge Cricket Club, in North York-

shire's Nidderdale league, will be seeking funds in the future to improve its own facilities. The core of the club's pavilion is wooden, but a stone and block extension was added in the 1970s. Members have to decide whether to knock down the whole

lot and start again or simply to replace the wooden section. Estimates are more than £80,000 for the former and £45,000 for the latter. The lottery has proved something of a godsend for local cricket clubs since March 1995. In that time, the Lottery Sports Fund has handed out more than £10.4m to 200 such clubs for pitch improvements, practice fa-

cilities and pavilions. A further 181 applications are in the pipeline. The lottery has given clubs an opportunity to improve facilities which they have not had for years, and prove facilities mean people knocking on your door first-class facilities mean people knocking on your door wanting to play for you, "says Penny Taylor, grant aid wanting to play for you," says Penny Taylor, grant aid

officer for the Hampshire Cricket Association. This time last year, for instance, Woodgreen Cricket Club's pavilion in the New Forest was in much the same state as that at Hurstbourne Priors. There was no heat or light and the players changed and

National Lottery cash is helping village cricket clubs to do a bit of home improvement. **Christian Dymond** reports

socialised in the same room. Even the windows were

devoid of glass.
But, thanks to a £37,000 wooden-and-thatched ex-

tension (£12,980 came from the Sports Council fund and £10,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts), there are now two changing-rooms, hot showers, a disabled toilet, heating, lighting and glazed

"It's a dream come true. We thought we'd have to raise the money ourselves, which would have taken many, many years," says Ray Mortimer, the club's

Martin Coales, chairman of Bomere Heath Cricket Club, in Shropshire, talks of "money beyond our wildest dreams" to describe the £50,865 and £28,500 that have come to the club from the Sports Council and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts

A new pavilion (replacing a wooden Nissen hut) and new ground facilities that together have cost £130,000 will be officially opened at the start of the

Improved facilities, however, do not necessarily her-ald an end to the rich variety of clubhouses that are one of the great features of village and small town

Keswick got a £87.364 sports pavilion in 1994 to replace one that, according to the cricket club captain, Keith Richardson, was "dropping to bits". But the incorporation of the old pavilion's Lakeland greenslate roof, two ventilation turrets and balcony timber gives it a look that belies its age.

Traditional, too, is the three-and-a-half-year-old pavilion at Ripley, near Harrogate. The club wanted something that would blend in with the village and nearby Ripley Castle, so went for a timbered building that a warrands from a Worcestershire commany.

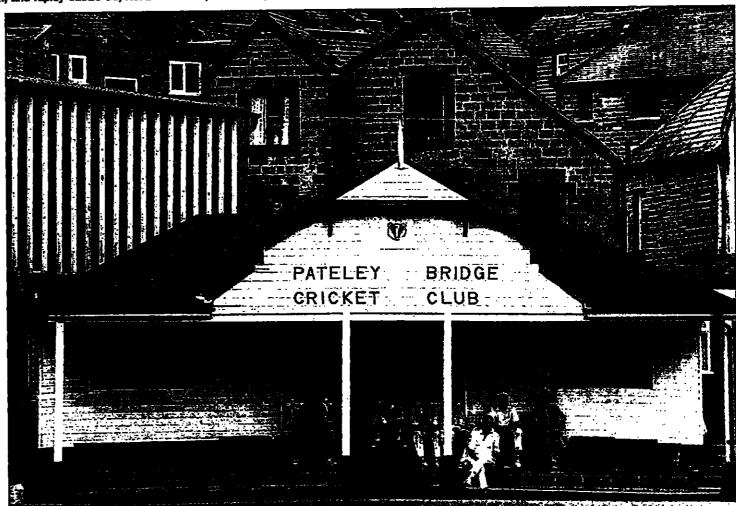
ing with a veranda from a Worcestershire company called Courtyard Designs.

The village cricket pavilion and the ground are part of our British way of life," says Suzanne White of The Cricketer magazine, which for the 25th year is or-

ganising the national knock-out cup competition for village cricket clubs. Caldy and Langley cricket clubs will meet in the Alliance and Leicester Giro Village Cricket Championship final at Lord's on 1 September. Hursibourne

Priors and Pateley Bridge, alas, were knocked out in

the first round.





Next stop: a bite at the **Big Apple**

Eyes will be keenly trained on Richard Krajicek at Flushing Meadow. John Roberts sizes up the Wimbledon champion

he only time the United States championships went Dutch was in 1968. the first year of open tennis. The American Arthur Ashe defeated Tom Okker for the men's singles title, but the runner-up returned to Amsterdam with the \$14,000 prize

Ashe received only \$280 in expenses because he was still an amateur, a second lieutenant in the US Army, "happy to be able to make the payments on my beloved Ford

Until six weeks ago, Okker re-mained the only Dutchman ever to play in a Grand Slam singles final. Then along came Richard Krajicek with a breathtaking triumph at Wimbledon, where he was not even

The question now is whether the 24-year-old from than Okker at the US Open, which starts next Monday. Or at least that is one of the questions.
"Who is the more popular

Netherlands between yourself and the actor Jean Claude Van Damme?" an American reporter wanted to know.

Oh, he is Belgian, Jean Claude Van Damme," Krajicek pointed out

The reporter apologised and explained that on visiting Amsterdam he had seen a huge billboard portraying the martial arts star. "He is from just south of Holland," Krajicek said helpfully. "I think, compared to actors, there is no comparison, no matter which actors you take. They are much more famous and much more of a celebrity. But I haven't been in Holland,

Based in Monte Carlo, like so many of his fellow professionals, Krajicek will be able to gauge the impact of his success first hand only when he returns to his birthplace for a few functions" after finishing his business at the US Open.

After Wimbledon, he put his rackets away for a fortnight and took his customary break in the Austrian village of Ramsau Dachstein, near Salzburg. "In a way, Wimbledon mucked things up for me a little bit, because I had such a short time for the holidays," he teased. "I first went to Austria two years ago, after my knee problems. The doctor advised me to go cross-country skiing twice a year. I also do a lot of running and cycling. Sometimes I am a little bit sick of tennis, and working out in Austria is one of the best holidays I

He elected to miss the Olympic Games in Atlanta. "I thought my schedule was too crowded. Three

next event was the minimum. Maybe if the Olympics had been one week later there would have been a good

The 6ft 5in Krajicek did not exactly go unnoticed back home even before he fulfilled his potential at Wimbledon. "When I play in Holland I think I get a little bit close to what Andre Agassi has every week," he said. "I am pretty popular with the kids in Holland."

While grateful for his talent and the rewards it brings - £392,500 for winning Wimbledon boosted his career prize money to £3.1m - Krajicek does not crave attention. "For one week I can handle it fine, but to have it all the time must be so tiring, and it's tough to be nice to everybody.

Sampras on Krajicek: Rotterdam can go one better 'Richard's always had a big game. When he gets hot, he's very difficult. He's Dutchman now in the always given me problems'

> So in that sense I don't really envy matches in heat and humidity. "At gassi, I guess.

He savoured his accomplishment at Wimbledon during a contemplative moment in a crowded room. "When I was at the champions' dinner on the Sunday evening and the trophy was in front of me and my name was already written on it, the feeling I had was unbelievable. It was great to read the names - Bjorn Borg five times in a row, Pete Sampras three times in a row. They are people of a higher level, but it's like you are part of them, and that's a pret-

Krajicek's straight-sets victory



ended the world No 1's prospects of becoming the first since Borg to win the title four times consecutively.

Sampras is among the players who have won both Wimbledon and the US Open singles titles in the same season. He succeeded twice, last year and in 1993. Krajicek, how ever, might also take note that Stefan Edberg, Pat Cash and John Newcombe all experienced the in-dignity of following a triumph at the All England Club with a first-round disaster in New York.

Krajicek has so far advanced to the fourth round on two of his five visits to the rubberised concrete courts at Flushing Meadow, New York. In 1992, he led Edberg, the eventual champion, by two sets to one and was a break up in the fifth set, the

Swede recovering to win 6-4. A year later, at the same stage, Krajicek was defeated in four sets by the Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev. Last year, the Dutchman

reached the third round, where he lost to the Australian Michael Tebbutt in a fifth-set tie-break.

"The weather can be so tough at the US Open," Krajicek said, recalling lengthy Wimbledon, the grass is a tough surface to play on. At the US Open, the big difficulty is that you have to be in good shape. You can lose to the weather, basically."

He is determined to build on the Wimbledon experience. "I should enjoy the feeling of being Wimbledon champion. I don't see it as a burden. Sampras reserves judgement.

We'll see over the year and the years how he responds to being a Wimbledon champion," he said. "Everybody is going to be kind of shooting

"Richard has always had a very big hot, he's very difficult. When he's not playing well and he's not healthy. then he's a little bit more vulnerable. I've played him a number of times and he's always given me problems."

Sampras needs to make a successful defence of the championship if he is to avoid finishing a year without a Grand Slam title to his name for the first time since 1992. "It's been a strange year," he

mused, "especially in the majors. There have been a lot of upsets and it seems like a lot of guys have stepped up, Kafelnikov winning in Paris and Krajicek winning at Wimbledon.

The surprises could continue, although Krajicek fancies that Sampras and Agassi will be difficult to shift on home territory. It might be expecting too much for the Dutchman to snatch the record \$600,000 prize from under American noses, even in



Kiss goodbye to heady days in the Louis Armstrong

A new stadium is set to provide a dazzling showcase for the US Open

New York trust that a new main stadium costing \$234m will finally persuade the tournament's critics that a bright golden haze on Flushing Meadow does not necessarily relate to

Structural work is complete, on schedule to become the showpiece of next year's championships. It stands about 50 yards from the current Stadium Court, which, unlike Wimble-don's original Court No 1, has not been condemned to be reduced to rubble. Few hurrahs are expected on that score.

Although renowned for dramatic matches, the US Open is widely regarded as the ugly sister of the four Grand Slam championships because of its poor amenities.

Flushing Meadow-Corona the burning of Brooklyn's rubbish - F Scott Fitzgerald called it "a valley of ashes" in The of its past come in whiffs from renovated and downsized from nal 21.6 acres of the site. When

rganisers of the the US Open, especially on US Open in steamier days. steamier days.

Big advances at the world's

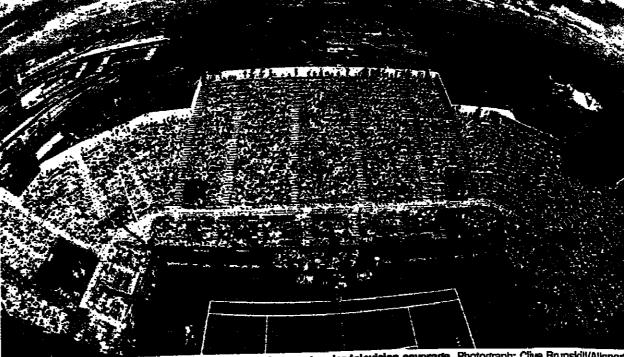
other leading venues have accentuated the US Open's image The Australian Open has

blossomed since moving from the Melbourne suburbs to a magnificent National Tennis Centre in the city in 1988. The French Tennis Federation reand the 21,700-seat stadium is built the main stand of the Centre Court at Stade Roland Garros in Paris and created a splendid new Court No 1, dedicated to Suzanne Lenglen. And Wimbledon's 11,000-

seat new Court No 1 will be the focal point of next year's championships as the All England Club marks the completion of stage one of a long-term development programme.

The US Open is making an effort to catch up, but the present main stadium, with its dodgy plumbing and unreliable elevators, will provide Park formerly was a dump for centre stage for a 19th and final year during the course of the

coming fortnight. Although the arena will continue to be used, it will be



The steep-sided Louis Armstrong Stadium makes for spectacular television coverage Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

20,000 seats to 10,000 after the expansion programme is the 1997 championships. The adjacent Grandstand Court, which seats 5,500, will remain intact. As part of the United States Tennis Association's lease with

completed, the total number of

courts will have increased by 10 to 47, nine of which are indoors. The biggest selling point of the project is the fact that the new stadium has been designed the City of New York, 24,9 acres specifically for tennis. That could have been added to the origi-

not be said of its predecessor, a

steeply banked human ant-hill of an arena built for exhibitions and concerts long before the likes of Connors and McEnroe made themselves heard.

Louis Armstrong Stadium was converted in 1978 when the National Tennis Center at Flushing Meadow materialised in the cided that the championships

public park in the borough of Queens, close to Shea Stadium, home of the Mets, and within earshot of La Guardia airport.

The late W E "Slew" Hester, an oilman from Jackson, Mississippi, was president of the USTA at the time it was de-

had outgrown the West Side Tennis Club at Forest Hills, New York. In January 1977, Hester was on a flight ap-proaching La Guardia when he glimpsed the derelict Louis Armstrong Stadium in a snowcovered Flushing Meadow.

The stadium, built by the Singer Sewing Machine Company for the 1964-65 New York World's Fair and originally called the Singer Bowl, became the property of the city when the fair closed and was later renamed Louis Armstrong Stadium for the great man of jazz, who lived in the district.

By 1974, the structure was in disrepair and the city, lacking the funds to renovate it, decided to close the stadium. Then in flew "Slew" with the USTA's offer to underwrite the cost of transforming the site into a National Tennis Center which could be used by the public for 10 months of the year.

The name Louis Armstrong Stadium was retained, and will continue down the scale. The task of renovating the structure and halving the capacity is expected to be completed in time for the 1998 championships.

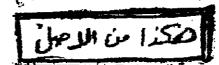
"The facility has served us very well, but it is outdated," Lester Snyder, chairman of the US Open Committee, says, "We don't want to continue having some of the maintenance problems that we currently have. If we reduce the upper weight that will help us tremendously, as it affects the lower part of the stadium."

aron feder

"I was looking for some-body and I got a bit of a nose bleed up there," joked David Markin, vice-chairman of the US Open project, emphasising that the new stadium will have a much more gentle slope, so that even the top seats will have a much better view.

It has to be admitted that the steepness of Louis Armstrong. Stadium lends itself to some spectacular television coverage, especially when a capacity crowd generates a characteristically rancous atmosphere.

On such occasions the spectators have a wonderful time, even those on the rim of the bowl - they may not have the best view of the shots, but they almost certainly noticed that Agassi was thin on top when he still sported the big hair. John Roberts



coming soon... boxing 7

Salford's Viking king ready for a rampage

When Steve Foster steps into the ring, a horde of followers push the longboats out. Glyn Leach reports

the thousands of

elids did not bat when Kirk Douglas and Tony Curtis, Americans of Jewish descent, played The Vikings in the eponymous action movie that has become a Bank Holiday/Sunday afternoon staple - hardly Jeremy Irons being asked to play a Pakistani, was it? But it is doubtful that the Dimple and the DA knew what they were starting with their cult of the counterfeit Norsemen.

Longboats in Nineties Greater Manchester? Horned hordes roaming through Salford? At the beck and call of a pseudo-Scandinavian war-

Nobody could Viking" Foster, the Commonwealth and IBF Intercontinental light-middleweight champion and a man

cloaks in the crowd The Rev Jim Jones's stan-

dards of power over the flock, but Foster's congregation is more capable of spending its disposable income. Foster, in training at Salford's Phoenix Camp gym for what until recently seemed a most unlikely world

title challenge next month, bas long been British boxing's premier handson ticket-seller. No beneficiary of multimedia marketing, but a man with huge grassroots popularity in his own locale, who knows the people buying tickets to his fights because he has sold them those tickets himself. Foster shifted a best-yet £40,000 worth for his last contest, when he out-

pointed Chris Pyatt for the Commonwealth title, all taken from friends, family and in the pubs and chibs of Salford. Hardly surprising. then, that Foster should recently have made his first foray into legitimate boxing promotion. The show sold

punters having to be turned away. He stages his second promotion tomorrow night in Saiford.

Foster, 35, candidly admits that exquisite boxing skills are not the root of his status. "We all know I'm not Sugar Ray Leonard," he said. "I trade on me fitness. I'm always in great shape. I'm a believer that most of the skill goes out of a fight after five or six rounds. After that,

it's down to who wants it most. Modestly, Foster attributes his popularity to Salford having been starved of boxing success. True, but a theory making light of Foster's charisma and reputation locally as an lord with not a dram of Nordic blood all-round decent guy. And until the

end of last year, Nobody could have predicted It is surreal to witness thing but successful, having lost three mid evel title chalhomed helmets and borrowed fireside-rug Central to the

SUCCESS

when Foster fights causes his promoter, Frank Warren, to term Foster "a phenomenon" has been the Viking theme introduced five years ago when someone suggested a catchy French nom de guerre might perk up a flagging career. As a teenager, Foster's long blond hair, cropped today, and love of a brawl

"I were a bit of a handful" - carned

him his Norse nickname from drink-

ing friends: "You're like a bloody

Viking, you." Two and two made four. But a teenager's drinking name would become Foster's meal ticket in his mid-thirties as a father of three (a 19-year-old daughter and sons aged 15 and 8), a former bricklayer and Salford publican who readily admits: "It's no secret, I still like a drink,

It is surreal in the extreme to witness the thousands of horned helmets and borrowed fireside-rug cloaks in the crowd when Foster fights. Roaring out an approximation of the tune to the Douglas-Curtis



Steve Foster in the gym: 'Me trainer, Billy Graham, is getting me fitter than ever for this. It's been weeks since I've had a drink with me Vikings'

movie, the chant appropriated by supporters at the City Ground and Ewood Park when Lars Bohinen has

Such is the devotion to Foster that a hand of Viking raiders - "I know em all, went to school with 'em, drink with 'em" - travelled, in full regalia, on a flatback truck dressed as a longboat to a Foster fight in Birmingham. When Foster lost (as he has done 13 times in 34 fights), they returned to Manchester, torched their wheeled ship and sent it sailing down the River Irwell as a Viking funeral for their vanquished chieftain. Criminally imaginative. Thankfully, the Foster

family dog escape a fiery fate.

But the mischief had turned to mayhem earlier that evening in September 1994 when Vikings from Salford, a Manchester United

stronghold, and the notorious "Zulu" Birmingham City supporters who followed Foster's opponent, Robert McCracken, clashed inside the National Exhibition Centre in one of the worst British boxing riots ever - though it was chicken feed compared with July's Madison

Square Garden disturbance. "It

were terrible," Foster said. "Those

Zulus attacked us. We're never any

trouble. Me Vikings used to take their wives and kids along, but they stopped after that. It took four fights before the Vikings felt safe in bringing the family again."

They will be there in force at the Nynex Centre, Manchester, on 19 September. Only Odin knows what Florida's Ronald "Winky" Wright, the World Boxing Organisation champion, will make of it ali.

"And wait till he gets a load of me, Foster said. "I'll be in his face all night. Me trainer, Billy Graham, is getting me fitter than ever for this. It's been weeks since I've had a drink with me Vikings."

Photograph: Andrew Varley

Unsurprisingly, Graham is nick-named "The Preacher". But no, he does not inspire dog-collar wearing support. One cult will do Salford

Shopping List

1 M Schumacher

£12m

5 D Coulthard

7 J Villeneuve

8 M Hakkinen

9 H H Frentzen

10 M Brundle

12 J Herbert

13 M Salo

14 P Lamy

15 P Diniz

18 O Panis

19 L Badoer

20 R Rosset

16 U Katayama

17 J Verstappen

21 A Montermini

22 G Fisichella*

23 V Sospiri*

24 T Marques*

25 F Lagorce*

28 M Blundell*

30 K Brack*

31 K Burt*

32 E Colland*

33 N Fontana*

34 D Franchitti*

29 J-C Bouillon*

26 H Noda*

27 T Inoue*

11 R Barrichello

6 E Irvine

CHASSIS

40 Benetton

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43 McLaren

44 Sauber

45 Jordan

46 Ligier

47 Tyrrell

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50 Forti*

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51 Renault

52 Ferrari

£12m

53 Mercedes

54 Peugeot

55 Mugen

56 Ford V10

57 Yamaha

59 Ford Zetec V8

60 Ford ED V8

1996 RACE

SCHEDULE

Belgian GP

August 25

Italian &P

September 8

Portuguese GP

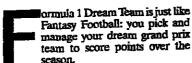
mese GP

September 22

58 Hart

PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM

WIN a drive in a grand prix car



Even though the grand prix season is underway, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our prize for the Belgian Grand Prix. The champion of the 1996 grand prix season will win our overall prize, a drive in a

Your team must comprise three drivers a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list (printed right); the only restriction is that your third driver must

come from the £1 million category. Details of how to enter are given on this page. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE

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Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up

extra points as follows: The fastest driver in race-day warmup will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.

Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing

Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement. If your driver makes the quickest pit-

stop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.

If your driver sets the fastest lap time

in the race, you gain five points. If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points. If your driver starts on pole position,

you gain five points. The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance,

worth five points. Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to



Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix



4.44.4

take the start, no points are lost. Drivers removed from the results

for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points. Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only

they are both among the first five to Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement

the first chassis retirement will count if

HOW TO ENTER Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805. You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Champi-

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods. Method I uses a tone phone that lets you

key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within

budget and is eligible. Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tic, the team

that registered first will win. Once you have registered your team you

telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line.

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team £20m can be registered per call. 4 G Berger

CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 896 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.

2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to

3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes. 4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Pic, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families

are incligible. 5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic. 6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.

7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.

8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will

 For lost PIN numbers please call;
 0891 891 808. For our Helpline call: 01275 344183.

10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 5C teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

35 N Larini* 36 J Magnussen* 37 A Prost 38 G Tarquini* 39 K Wendlinger*

*Not competing in Beigian GP but may compete later



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Halling is

twice the

horse

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RICHARD EDMONDSON

reports from the Knavesmire

If Halling had never run on dirt he would by now be jostling up there with the horses of the decade. The chestnut best known for his two deplorable efforts behind Cigar on the sands of New York and Dubai once again left turf opposition behind like wreckage in the Interna-tional Stakes here. He is unbeaten on grass for two years.

On the bald statistics of the record books Halling is a unique animal. Since the inception of the Pattern race system in 1971 no other horse has won British Group One events twice such as he has done in the International and Sandown's Eclipse Stakes over the last two years. The compelling evidence of the eye does him no ill service either. Halling's appearance is always glorious and his performances similar, a blend of high cruising speed and

devastating kick. The five-year-old won the best-turned-out award again yesterday. As he circled the parade ring, eyes rolling aggres-sively in their sockets, it seemed someone had taken the trouble leggy figure physically outshone the likes of Bijou D'Inde, of the soup-bowl hooves, and First Island, who displays a staccato high-heel step, a sort of hen-

rigid echelon quickly formed, with Halling and Bijou D'Inde at the head of affairs ahead of

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Norwegian Blue (York 5,15) NB: Shamadara (York 2.35)

and First Island. This was the line for most of the journey, an unchanged wagon train winding across the plain of the Knavesmire until Lanfranco Dettori, on the leader, decided to make the pace a little more uncomfortable. "When I pushed at about a furlong and a half out he [Halling] just changed his lead and off he went," the Italian reported. "I had a look round and

saw the race was finished." Halling veered to the centre of the course, just as he had done last year, as if showing both sections of the crowd what a clever boy he was. There

night totter.
When the stalls opened a

Spectrum, Grape Tree Road

Halling is out on his own as he destroys a top-class fileld at York yesterday to win the international for the second successive year Island and a further length and

a half to Bijou D'Inde. On returning, Dettori was at his theatrical best, grimacing, raising his index finger and punching towards the heavens, playing his audience as skilfully as a countryman might at La Scala in his native Milan. "This horse is so versatile," he said. "He relaxes, he's got pace and

I was basically just a passenger today.

This race meant more than most to Dettori as his father, Gianfranco, won it on Wollow 20 years ago. Dettori jur's report to the winner's owners, Godolphin, means Halling may now step up in distance and take in when a push comes to a shove sequent Great Voltigeur Stakes. the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, in championship races he re-

a turn of foot. He's fantastic and though Newmarket's Champion Stakes may be the favoured option. "But the programme definitely won't include the Breeders' Cup Classic," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said. "The dirt fazes him. He trains very well on it throughout the winter, but when a push comes to a shove

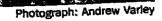
sents it. I suppose he could go for the Turf in Canada as a mile and a half around Woodbine should suit him well."

The International was sponsored by Khalid Abdullah and the man from Juddmonte got some of his money back when Dushyantor collected the sub-

did not carry much authority. however, and he is by no means yet a definite starter for the St eger. The funds from the Group Two event were not enough to haul Cecil back in front of Godolphin's Saeed Bin Suroor, who had taken the lead in the trainers' championship in

the previous race. The most grateful winner of

the afternoon was the tiredest; Walter Swinburn, who piloted Yom Jameel in the Melrose Stakes. Swinburn has yet to regain full fitness after his sixmonth lay-off and his legs betrayed him in the closing stages. "My thighs just turned to jelly," he said. The poor beasts that competed with



Sil Sila to step into spotlight from long-odds shadows

GREG WOOD

It sounds perverse, but the one fact which should deter the superstitious from supporting Sil Sila in the Yorkshire Oaks this afternoon is that she will set off as one of the favourites.

Bryan Smart, who trains a mixture of Flat horses and jumpers at his small yard in Lambourn, has sent Sil Sila to the races six times, and three times she has returned home a those successes were 50-1, 25-1

and 30-1, and anyone who had staked £10 on her nose every time would now be more than though, the return has been far more significant still, since the former jump jockey, who had just two horses in his stable as recently as five years ago, is now one of the small percentage of trainers who has saddled a Clas-

It was Sil Sila's most recent victory, in the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) at Chantilly, which offered a useful reminder to prospective owners that there

is life beyond the three-figure strings in Newmarket. As a result, Smart expects to visit the £1,000 ahead. For Smart, yearling sales this autumn with several new orders. If Sil Sila could secure a second Group One success this afternoon, he might be bidding for everything in sight. Tve just been very fortunate

to win a Classic with such a good filly and we'll go to York on Wednesday knowing that she owes me nothing." Smart said, but he is also well aware that her chance today is a very real one, not least because there may be

the season progresses. "She's an absolute dream to

train, she's just like My Little Pony," he says, "but she's very lazy in her work so it can be a problem getting her fit early. At the moment, she looks fantastic, and mentally I'm sure I've never had her better. I rode her out this morning and walking home she was tossing her head around, very happy and very well. We're there to be shot at, but if everything stays together, she'll run a big race." One minor doubt concerns

better to come from Sil Sila as Sil Sila's stamina as she attempts 12 furlongs for the first time, a worry which would be amplified if, as predicted, heavy rain has arrived at the Knavesmire overnight. Her relaxed style of racing implies she should get home, however, and Sil Sila (2.35) must be the selection in à race which, for betting purposes, is far from ideal.

The contest which does demand a bet is the Ebor itself, though there will be few takers this morning for the long-time favourite, Harbour Dues. Lady Herries's colt pricked a foot yes-

terday and is a doubtful runner this afternoon. Even if he does make it to post, meanwhile, he Again, any significant is drawn in stall 22, the widest box of all, and though Sanmartino won from there 12 months ago, this must be seen

Ebor from a high draw. To the delight of the bookmakers, Beauchamp Jade, the only other runner seriously backed for the race in recent weeks, has also pulled out a high number (18), but from a punting point of view this simply

as the exception to prove the

rule that horses do not win the

vestigating will be available at around 14-1 - less, of course, if a worthwhile price.

around 14-1 - less, of course, if Harbour Dues comes out - of-

overnight rain must be taken into account - in that event, the front-running Desert Frolic, from stall one, might take some passing - but the runner who makes the greatest appeal is BETTER OFFER (nap 3.10). Guy Harwood's four-year-old has clearly been aimed at this race for several months, and the booking of Mick Kinane is further encouragement (the same combination took the 1995 costs.

means that the horses worth in- Hunt Cup). The early price of fers excellent value.

The day's second Group race, the Gimerack Stakes, can also fall to one of our smaller yards, as Brian Mechan's Easycall (3.45) should defy both a. penalty and the probable favourite, Paul Cole's The West. Fahim (4.15) is impossible to oppose in the 10-furlong handicap, but hardly value at around 5-2, while the seller which opens the card is to be avoided at all

YORK

2,05 Al Awa Consonant 2.35 Shemozzle 3.10 Clerkenwei

4.15 Billy Bushwacker (nb) 4.45 Janib 5.15 Norwegian Blue 3.45 Easycall GOING: Good.

GCHNE: GOOD.

STALLS: 5f & 6f - far side; 7f - stands side; round course - Inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand, U-shaped course. Flat and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Left-hand, U-shaped course. Flat and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Course is 1m S of city on A1056. York station I'm. ADMISSION: County Stand Sitl;
Tattersolls \$15; Silver Ring \$5 (O.PS \$2.50); Course Enclosure \$3 (O.APS \$1.50). Under-10s free all enclosures. Under-12s not admitted to County Stand. GAR PARK: \$2. re-

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecil—27 winners from 98 numers gives a success ratio of 27.6% and a loss to a \$1 level gade of \$5.96. J Gosden — 20 winners, 108 numers, 23.1%, -50.4; M Stoorte — 23 winners, 128 numers, 18.1%, +54.55; J Dualop — 19 winners, 91 numers, 20.9%, -\$14.59.

LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 41 winners, 210 rides, 19.5%, +\$1.74; L Deutori — (2) winners, 172 rides, 22.7%, +\$43.08; W Carson — 30 winners, 219 rides, 14.9%, -537.75; W R Swinburn — 10 winners, 148 rides, 12.5%, -\$7.87.

BLINKERED FIRST TAME Name.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Note:
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Hit Or Miss (2.05) won at Hamilton on Wednesdry.
LONG-DISTANCE EIDNNERS: Mak-Am-Mon (4.10) sent 275 miles by D Elsworth from
Whatcombe, Durset: Dreams End (3.10) sent 262 miles by P Rowen from Haverfordnest, Dyfel.

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1 7) AE	ROUS SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £15,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £11,576	4
4		added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £11.576	
!∵	~~~~	DOCKLANDS CARBLAGE (17) (IA) (Mrs. Lez Olio) IN Tolder 8 11	- 4E V
1 3	931730	DOCALAND CHEMIC (27) (M) (MS US2 CHAT II (MAS C 11,	- 10 E
3	062	FEEL A LINE (16) (I S Gurlen) B Mechan 8 11 M J Kinana	, w
3	06623	IMPERIAL OR METRIC (5) (Caylon Bigey Partnership Ltd.) I Beny 8 11	G 124
1		JUSCY TING (36) (Maren Widers) P Hastam 8 11	
5	0	MELLYKOOD (18) (Mark Torrigions Racing) M Tomptons 8 11	250R Ş
6		OCENN BREEZE (Denns L Durbar) J Warranght 8 11	5 000 2
ř		SILVER BUTTON JARSS Beny Dudouvi Mass S Hall 8 11	Hersh 3
8	034	SUPERCHARGER (57) (The Daysporte Company Limited) C Britain 8 11 F Lynch	(3) 12
ğ	25334	SMISS COAST (12) (Bernard Hathaway) Mr.: J Ramston 8 11	lon 21
10		SWINFORD CHARGER (Qualitar Holdings Limited) / Bottombey 8 11	one 1
lш	ū	THE DUBIOUS GOOSE (6) (Mrs. J.M. Davenoort) M.W. Eastertay 8. 11	2660 4
12	63	AL AVA CONSONANT (22) (The Dame Partnersho) J Berhell 8 6 J We	ever 7
13		HEAD GIRL (14) (The Challengers) C Thomson 8 6	
14		HIT OR MESS (7) (S A B Destroys) P Hastom 8 6	
15		IN GOOD NECK (6) (Mrs. Jean Turper) M W Easterby 8 6	
16		LAMORNA (8) (D) (N/ H Parsonby) M Charmon 8 6Pat Edd	
17		LUNAR MUSIC (5) IAIrs P A Barratt) M Meado 8 6 R Hanto	
فتا		MELL END CERT. (119) No T Algood) M W Extretty 8 6	
1 76	1.40603	PETITE DANSEUSE (14) (Nr. A M Upstell S Daw 8 6	Hi 13
20	00	SCHESANORM (9) (Julian Sheffeto) M Fetherston-Godley 8 6	
١Ξ	9000	VEERAPONG (25) (8F) (M W Easterby M W Easterby 8 6	
I →	00020	= 21 decisred -	
I		- 21 UCHEOU -	

BETTING: 9-1 Swise Coast, 13-2 Lamorra, 7-1 Petits Democuse, 15-2 Feel A Line, 10-1 Al Ava Coasonant, in Good Nick, 12-1 Docktands Carriage, MB End Girl, 14 Head Girl, Mellwood, 16 others 1992: No Monkey Nuc 2 8 11 J Carrol 5-2 U Benji 12 ran Portae GulDE

Swise Coast has every chance after creditable runs in murseness since his debut head sec

Swiss Coast has every chance after creditable runs in nursenes ance his debut head second to Dashing Rockswife at Cariste. But preference is for IN GOOD NRCK, who rates the pick of Mack Easterby's four runners with Franke Detton booked. In Good Nack can improve for this first amenging at the sixth furing. She returned from a two-month rest to fill third to Jack Borry's Rustly at Beverley last week. Easterby's more exposed dual winner Mill End Girl has been nested, but soll looks the type to piay a part. Melhacod could be a decert long-shot after his debut run when badly drawn behind Mumlen at Windsor 18 days ago. Lamonia, a debut winner at Warwick and a runner in the Windsor Costle at Royal Ascot, has shaped pretry well in nursenes and wouldn't be a surprise winner with Pat Eddery up. Alack Kinane nides Brian Meehan's Feel A Lline, who was in two strong maders at Newmarket before being caught by newcomer Alamssych when med in binkers at Brighton. Puttle Democrate has been in some strong nursenes since her Bath and Windsor was. Only fine lengths behind Fredni. The Fierce at Goodwood and then third to Spaniards line at Kempton, she just seems to have gone off the boil. Luner Marsic had an unlucky run in the Kempton race but disappointed at Haydock (ass Finday, but Htt Or Milos is a likely sort – winning a seller at Hamilton after needing the run when seven lengths behind Pottle Danseuse at Kempton. Doctdends Carriage, unlucky against Double Pork in an Ayr nursery two outings ago, and the tikely improver At Ava Consignant are other possibilities.

2.35 ASTON UPTHORPE YORKSHIRE CAKS (CLASS A) (Group 1) £100,000 added (fillies) 1m 4f Penalty Value £78,816

í		Penalty Fance Elegate	V.
ı	22211-2	RUSSIAN SNOWS (189) (D) (Goddphn) Saeed by Surror 4 9 4	u:
١ē	41.11.3	NEY CHANGE (280 (D) LLCV (222LE) On (th 3 8 8 Marings 1 3	ш
] 3	2 01355	MEZZOGOCKNO (18) (Mrs R Philops) G Wings 3 9 9	W
4	12-0312	PAPERING (129) (Stein Monammed) L Curran 3 88	D
5	12	QUOTA (96) (EF) K Abdusahi H Ceci 3 8 8	0
6	2112	SHAMADARA (38) (D) (HH Ago Yhūni A de Royer Dupre Fri 3 8 8 8 Mossó 8 1	LL.
7	1 32341	SHEMO221E (32) (D) (Lord Hartington) J Gossian 3 8 S	
á	11 0321	St. SLA (73) (Turquise Tracing Lab & Smort 3 & 8	الارا الارا
19	21164	WHITEMATER AFFAIR (18) U M Greetram) M Stone 388 T Quite 7 1	

BETTING: 7-2 Rossian Snows, Shatoudera, 9-2 Year Change, Sil Sila, 6-1 Shen 19-1 Mezrogiono, Quotz, 12-1 Whitewater Affair. 1995: Pure Gran 3 8 8 J Rec 11-10 (M Stotter 8 cm)

1995; Pure Grain 3 8 8 1 Red 11-10 (M Stodies 8 rain
FORMI GUIDE
Not too many rouders from France want fast ground but André Fabre's Tulipa won the Ribblesdale Stokes on such a surface and SHAMADARA is a confirmed last-ground lover who
box sure to take the beating if the ground doesn't change. Showers are forecast, but overall this risk to rate a weak, renewal and Shamadara armies a strongly fancied filly by connections ofter being edged out by Mick kinane on Dance Design in the Insh Oaks. Key Changle
was two lengths behind her at the Curragh and she was a length better than Shemozale.

when beaten a neck by Tukpa in the Ribblesdale, so this pair have to improve to beat Ger-ald Mosse's mount. Russian Snows was a progressive sort for John Oox last season when she won the Prox de Royaltieu at Longchamp. The 10-funlong trip on the sand at Nad El Sheba would have been too sterp when second to Valley Of Gold in February and this fresh Godolphin filly rates a high threat. Sill sills has every hope of staying after her 10-furlong win in the Pro de Dieme Hermes at Charatily even if she's by the aprincip Mayu. She chased home Magnificent Style in the Musicions here and the ground should be decent enough for her. Papering reversed muddy know with Whitewaster Affaith on the faster surface when second to Last Second in the Nassau Stakes. Mezzoglomo, beaten five lengths in fifth in that race, was seven lengths behind Shomadara at Longdhamp, which suggests this tho all have to do against the French raider. Quota completes the line up and faces a stem test effect finding Mezzoglomo too pacey over the shorter trip at Newbury. Selections SHAMADARA condito Va

2 10 TOTE EBOR (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £100,000

Ŀ	2.10	added 1m of Penalty Value £94,745	•
1	421402	MEDINAGENT LEGGRAD (19) (D) (Umm Qam Raging) L Cumani 5 9 10	L Dettect 4
2		NAMED WELDONG (32) (C) Olinst Welcome Pishal M Fetherston-Godley 4 9	
3		PRUSSIAN BLUE (USA) (52) (D) (L Mannopoulos) H Cacil 4 9 0	
4	22-0513	BETTER OFTER (19) (Mrs Wendy Saineri G Harwood 4 9 0 (7ex)	M. J Kinane 3
5		CORRADIN (52) (CD) (K Abdullati) H Cool 4 8 13	
6	1111-12	SNOW PROVICESS (63) (Ld Weinsteck/Bots of S Weinsteck) Lord Huntington 4	86RH#s14
7	0-41141	BEAUCHAMP JADE (28) (E Perser) H Carroy 4 8 6 (4ex)	@ Carter 18
8	2133-36	MONARCH (11) (HRH Pance Pand Salman) P Cale 4 8 1	12 مطني كــــــ
9	D43-010	TOP CEES (17) (BIF) (R.E. Sangeter) Mis J. Ramaden 6.8.1	D Hankon 21
10	240-001	TRUE FOR ACTION (13) (Mrs G A E Smith) M Tomplans 4 7 13 (7e)	Dale Obsen 9
11	60-0023	MRY LEARNED PROBERD (40) (Mrs. J. Roberts) A Hide 5.7 12	A McGlone 20
12	156040	REMAKON SUN (17) (C) (Traity Sarler) M Lister 4 7 12	R Street 19
13		CLERROPONELL (USA) (47) (D) (Shalkh Michammed) M Strute 3 7 10	
14		AMBASSADOR (USA) (21) Malapum Al Malapum) B Has 3 7 10	
15		HARBOUR DUES (62) (8F) Pleamonds Study Lady Hernes 3 7 10	
16		FOUNDRY LANE (53) (D) IA Shanatti Mis M Reveloy 5 7 10	
17		DREAMS END (39) (D) (T G Price) P Bowen 8 7 10	
18		SHADOW LEADER (32) (James Stadishan) C Egerton 5 7 10	
19		DESERT FROUC (28) (Makeourn Al Mateourn) M. Johnston 3 7 10	
30		LAKELINE LESEND (21) (Jerry Sung) M. Javes 3 7 10	
21		BENEFLEET (7) IC & Donovani R Armstrong 5 7 10	
22	331000	MALE-ANIA-MOU (22) ICh So Baght Syndicate) D Elsworth 3 7 10	.11 ليوسل 19 0.
		- 22 declared -	

- 22 declared -
Affrantum weight: 7st 10th. True handloop weights: Celebraned 7st 5th, Ambassador 7st 5th, Histoor Duter
7st 8th, Foundry Lane 7st 7th. Organis End 7st 6th, Shedow Leader 7st 6th. Desert Frolit 7st 5th, Leisline
Legerd 7st 5th. Septient 7st 2th, Male-Any-Mou 7st 1th.
BETTINE: 5-1 Harbour Duser, 7-1 Beautribung Janes, 8-1 Ambassadow, 10-1 Clarkeawell, Soow Princess,
12-1 Better Offer, Cornadial, 14-1 Foundry Lane, Top Cees, 16-1 Desert Frolit. 18-1 Laiteline Legend,
Midnight Legend, Frussian Stee, 20-1 Mountot, 25-1 Nature Weldome, Time For Action, 33-1 MaleAnna-Mon, Remand Son, 40-1 My Learned Friend, 50-1 others
1995: Semmertino 3 7 11 W Carson 8-1 (8 Hast 21 ran

Asselion, Remand Son, 40-1 by Learned Friend, 50-1 others

1995: Sammartino 3.7.11 W Carson 6-1. (3 Hast 21 rail

FORM GUIDE

AMBASSADOR looked an Ebor type when he beat Arched (third in the Magnet Cup afterwards) over 10 furlongs at Donosister in June. He has a similar look to his stablemate Sammartino, who won this last year after a 10-furlong win and a defeat in the Tote Good Trophy at Goodwood Ambassador never got in a blow behind Freequent in the Goodwood rensewal, but that sharp course doesn't suit every horse and Ambassador will be much more at home galloping up this long straight. With a feather weight and Willie Carson doing the pushing Ambassador is the one to be on. Cleditatively is another with a fight weight and from the yeard that won with Yorn Jameel hero yesterday. A confidence booster at Sandown could have a teiling effect on this promising colt and he's a value each-way bet on his neck second to Harbour Dues has Goodwood in June. Anti-post havourbe Harbour Dues has been unlucky with the outside draw. He was also involved in an injury scare yesterday when he pricked his foot and went larme. So he looks a shade risky, especially at the crampad odds, in such a tough race. Ascot winner Better Offee appeals after being asked a big question by Michael Hills from way off the pace when a strong-firsthing third to Salmon Ladder at Goodwood next time. Guy Harvood won this with Crazy and Primary in the 80's and his winning partner Mick Kinane is back on board. He's rated 7to higher after Aspot, but this longer hip is likely to such him. Beagnetamp Jade, an unjudy fourth to Tylogyor in the Beagney out has already clicked with Herny Ceoll's new stable jockey Kleren Falion – the combination proving too smart for stablemate Propalase Rites at Donosater, But the 8th higher mark for the course win from Celeric may just prove his undoing against his young rivels. Corradiol has already clicked with Herny Ceoll's new stable jockey Kleren Falion – the combination proving too smart for stablemate Propalase Rites at

3.45 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE GENICRACK STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £75,000 2YO 6f Pen Value £65,832

		RATINGS
111	BASYCALL (20), (D) (Extends Partnersho) B Meetian 9.2	
	ABOU ZOUZ (USA) (88) (8F) (Nielic Said) () Loder 8 11	
	COMPTON PLACE (20) (D) (Duke of Devorshire) J Toler 8 11	
	FOR YOUR EYES ONLY (18) (D) (Reg Griffin) T Easterby 8 11	
	HILLA PRINCE (42) (Makeburn A) Makeburn) M Johnston 8 11	
	MAGRASSME (61) (D) (M Gleason) / LEyra 8 15	
	PROUD HATTNE (20) (CD) & Fust A laws 8 11	
	SELECT CHOICE (21) (Select 96 Partnership) A Janus 8 11	
1	THE WEST (USA) (18) (D) (HRH Prince Fand Salman) P Cole 8 11	T Quine 5 111
	. 4 sectored =	

- # cocurrer -BETTRIC: 9-4 The West, 5-2 Empresil, 11-2 Propri Nather, 7-1 Huán Prince, 15-2 Compton Place, 9-1 Négrados, 10-1 Abou Zouz, 11-1 For Your Eyes Only, 16-1 Select Choice. 1995: Royal Apricuse 2 9 0 W R Swotum 4-6 (8 Hills) 5 ran

1995: Royal Applause 2 9 0 W R Swintum 2-6 (8 Hills) 5 am FORMI GUIDE

THE WEST looked out of the top drawer when making a winning debut at Glorious Goodwood. Paul Cole book the easier option after entering him for the Richmond States and The West, backed as though defeat was impossible, duly crusted home from his fellow newcomer mats. Despite being eased down. The West clothed a faster time than Easywall sens with the Richmond two days earlier so, with improvement to come, hit is going to take some stopping today. Easywall gets better with each race and Brian Meethen has booked Mick Romen. To beat Norfolk Stakes second Raphane time lengths at Goodwood was a cracking effort and, despite the 5th peneity, he is the one The West has to overcome. Abou Zosz, highly raised by David Loder earlier in the season, duly made a winning debut at Newmarket and is OUR to redeem his reputation after the defeat by Statesman at Kempton. For Your Eyes Only, note lengths behing Raphane in the Norfolk and beaten in a nursery last time, has it to do.

4.15 MOTABILITY RATED HANDICAP (CLASS E) £20,000 added 1m 2f 85yds Penalty Value £14,207 CS-5022 BIOM PRIESS (25) (IF PAPOT I Railling 497 | 1-02001, MOVING ARROW (25) (C) (D) (G W Westgard) Mics S Hall 5 9 5 ... 11-0 WOOD MAGIC (137) (RF) (Sheak Michaemack) D Loder 3 9 4 ... 0413-43 SDAR OF ZILZAL (LRSA) (LT) (Micro M Michaem) M Stoute 4 9 4 ... 5-0235 CLAN BEN (25) (RF) (Argor Dunder PL) H Cool 4 9 4 ... 0-111 FAMILA (15) (D) (Randon A Michaem) M Stowart 3 9 2 ... S12050 AMRINK ALEER (35) (B) (A Micro B Hambury 4 9 0 ... 7 612050 ANRIVA ALEES (39) (D) (A Mezal B Hambury 4 9 0 MR Planting 1 8 21-565 TOWNIL (USA) (73) Phandan A Mateuring B Hills 3 8 12 R Hills 9 4230-0 WIRMALOD (9) (D) (D) door a held () 1 Hamps 4 8 11 J Westere 5 10 2200-0 SELLY BUSHING-CRES (12) (T) S Child Max M Reveley 5 8 11 R Cochrane 6 11 140120 AL SHAPA (21) Phince A A Fassol / Durlop 3 8 11 K Durloy 1A 12 53-1106 DANCE SO SURIE (22) (D) (J S Gutter) P Chie 4 8 10 Mr Feeton 10 14 260501 HAZARO A GUESS (6) (D) (RF Computed Lab D Nicholis 6 8 7 Mez Grantine 12 12 241004 THE DILETTANTI (USA) (13) (Durlop G Deconstate) J Toller 3 8 3 S Sunders 11 16 05201 (ARSDA (48) (Shebit Mohenmed Oracl A Markours) C British 3 8 1 F Lynck (3) 15 -16 declared - SCA1. (ARSDA (48) (Shebit Mohenmed Oracl A Markours) C British 3 8 1 F Lynck (3) 15 -22TING: 21-4 Fabins, 8-1 Claim Sen, 10-1 Al Shelz, Grand Selection, 12-1 Bibly Bustinaction, Described, Star Of Zizni, 20-1 Americ Alpeth, Tamidi, 33-1 Vendelco, 1995: Metalie Militaire 3 8 4 M J Horace 7-2 (J Durlop) 9 sin FORM GUIDE

1990: Mediate Mazzer 3 6 % in a reverse 1 % o unity 3 ms.

FORM GUIDE

FARMA, with two impressive handicap wins to his name already, can pull it off again despite the 8th hile in the weights. Feithm trassived 19 mais at Newmerlet on his first attempt in handicap company and followed up at Goodwood despite being faced with treffic problems. He continued Newmarket superiority over the Dilettantid despite meeting this real on 13th warse terms, and the progressive Crown Court was also befind him at Goodwood even though he was retroping a 9th pull for the three-length beating in a Bewerley maiden. Claim Bean, third to First Island here in May, is a danger after an unfucly run when fifth to Behaulour at Ascot less tone. Pot Edicity thought the would have won had he not been hampered so, amed with a 5th pull, Claim Bein can reverse the form with the second that day, Heh Express. Billy Bushwacter just misses cut in the big time and, though on the heats of Claim Bein at Ascot, may not be good enough with the 20 pull. Grand Selection beat Silve Crown in the William HR Cup at Goodwood, but a 7th rise may hat his bid, white Denne 36 Saltes, soot in the case, doesn't look good enough. All Strette, a good second to Freedom Fleme at Newmarket, as better than his Goodwood run auggests, while Moving Arrow is a pacey frontumer who will test them all.

Selection: FAHSM

A ET ROSES STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £17,500 added 270 5f

Ĺ	1.45	Penalty Value £12,110	
ı		TEPSY CREEK (USA) (19) (D) (BF) Stemden Al Maldourd 8 Harbury 9 5	
2	011	BIG TEN (11) (D) (Mis S J Davis) R Hannon 8 11	R Pest
3	442101	FREDRIK THE FIERCE (20) (C) (Chris Deuters) J Berry 8 11	البير
4	41	JANGE (USA) (18) (D) (Hamdan Al Vizigount) H Thomson Jones 8 11	R F
5	45154	RESETS PET (20) (D) (The Broadgate Partnership) R Hazmon 8 11	L Deb
		= 5 declared =	

E	.15	FALMOUTH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £12,038
1		BLUE ERS (10) (C) DA A Janes) M Janes 9 7
ź	130640	DASHING BLUE (III) (C) (D) (Nes Duncan Alen) Dalding 9 6 L Delitor 17
3	24-3010	KUNNUCU (60) (D) (P D Savin 1 D Samon 9 5
ă.	3363-11	PORTO EMBRACE (107) (C) (Commander G G Marten) H Cardy 9 5
5		MEDICARE (80) 67) (Merven Apex) C Visit 9 4
š		SLAYDAY (16) (D) (Richard O'Toole) J Hayden (b) 92W Septele 3
7		GALINE (26) (D) (S Fustols W O'Gorman 8 13. Fourse O'Gorman 6
8		RUSHCUTTER BAY (2.1) (D) (Descure Sedies Pale) T Clement 8 129 Pauliner (7) & V
9	111116	LURVAR MAST (7) (A) (Mas P A Barrato M Mesole 8 11 R Handle 65 16
10	320100	PRODE OF BRESTICH (\$1) (D) (The Voice Group Let) G Louis 8 11
11		NORWESIAN BLIE (18) (Ambase Tunibull A Janes 8 10
12		SPLICING (16) (D) (Tony Hindrick) W Hogges 8 6
13	020000	SWYNEFORD DREAM (25) (D) Qualitair Holdings Limited; J Bottomics; 8.4
14	1-1	ZALOTT) (12) (D) (M H Tomplets) M Tomplets 8 4 K Desley 18
15		CLAN CHEF (15) (D) (P G Lond) Amolt 8 1
16		SPLINTER (17) (D) (K Abdullet) R Cheston 8 1
17	113146	U-NO-NARRY (9) (D) (D Copperhal) R Holleshead 7 11
18	003171	LITERARY SOCIETY (USA) (II) (Duke of Deventine) Taker 7 11 (7ex) Quies 4
19	1400143	CHENCAST (12) (D) (B L Cascal) D Nicholis 7 10 1 Chamock 19 B
20	444124	MANDRACE (S) (D) (SF) (D F Abboth K kery 7 t/) Martin Dayer (S) 12
		-20 decimed -

— 20 decimed —
Spiloty mar only if cremign rain
Adminum weight 7st 10in. The handson weights Chemosox 7st 6th, Adminum 7st 6th,
SETTINGS 8-1 Remoto, 9-2 Pine tits, Clam Chief, Pond Bastracus, Midnight Ecospa, 30
Zelotti. 12-1 Galina, Slurjiny, 14-1 Literary Society, Pitie Of Briton, Spiloter, 26-2

1995: Fairy Wind 3 8 5 M J Yanane 13-2 (N Callaghan) 12 ran

1995: Favy Wind 3 8 5 M J Yamane 13-2 (N Callaghart) 12 can FORM GUIDE.

DASHENG BLUE, a nursery warmer here in Conber, was an impressive winner from Cross. The Border at Sandown on his reappearance. He has been a shade disappointing of late, but the return of Franke Detton for the first time since Sandown could bring about a form reveal. Class Called is a big danger from the lower half of the handcap start wars at Sandown (twice) and Goodwood. The way he confirmed earlier superiority over Literary Seciety and Chemioset on worse terms at Goodwood confirmed that he is a golding on the upglade. Zalled the confirmed that he is a golding on the upglade. Zalled the confirmed that he is a golding on the upglade. Zalled the confirmed that he is a golding on the upglade. Zalled the confirmed that he is a golding on the upglade. Zalled the confirmed that he is golden to the start distribution of a cannon bone, has a tempting look at the weights. Found it is a subject of a fracture of a cannon bone, has a tempting look at the weights. Found it is subject to the confirmed that he is the confirmed and it is nature of a cannon bone, has a tempting look at the weights. Found it is nature to a subject the confirmed that he is a subject that the confirmed that he is a subject that the subject that the subject that the subject that the confirmed that it is a change of the confirmed that the con

Easycall has difficult task against Abou Zouz

LUKE ARDLEY

Many approaches to juvenile form are polarised between a generally low estimate of the vounger horses' abilities and the leap of faith which attends the advent of each new "wonder horse", beyond rational rating.

Yet there can be little explanation of how horses regularly bridge the gap between maidens and Group company, unless they have already displayed such a level of form in lesser competition.

Good horses are perfectly capable of showing their full ability before maturity and the tell-tale sign is so often a fast debut time. The Prix Morny winner, Bahamian Bounty, offers the Newmarket July meeting where he first appeared.

generally a match for their elders on the rare occasions they are pitched against each other on weight-for-age terms.

The Nunthorpe Stakes has been such a battleground in the recent past - Lyric Fantasy took the Group One event as a juvenile in 1992 - and tomorrow's lacklustre renewal would have been ripe for the picking by a smart two-year-old.

Pivotal is only a marginal choice to confirm Royal Ascot form with Mind Games in an event where there are no world beaters.

Easycall, who shoulders a penalty in today's Gimcrack Stakes is one from the juvenile division who would be close on the heels of the older sprinters, His form entitles him to win today, but Abou Zouz, a stable just such an example, vindicat- mate of Bahamian Bounty. ing an Independent rating of showed tremendous speed and 115 assigned immediately after promise on his debut. He looks a major challenger now his trainer, David Loder, has his

11114

Precocious two-year-olds are	horses in overdrive.								
EBOR HANDICAP	- 10-YEAR-TALE								
1996 87 88	89 90 94 59 69 64 55								
ate of the favourities. 16 2 15 Theory place in betting 2 3 2	. 3 1/22 92 12 0 1								
terting prices: 61, 13 2 9 1	35-2 741-25-1 18-1 14-1-10-0								
TOTAL CO. COME TO EL STRICE, FRANCE TORS. + E	5.50. Sebaha Francisco - Co.on								
reconstance of whenever placed 1st, 2nd o	T STE OF FREE PROPERTY.								
Hartweit priced village: Pitting 6-1 (196) Control priced village: Deposis 25-1 (196									
op bolleder: 19788 – Austres Pledy (1990),	Semetho (1995)								
be Jodiney: No jettley has wort the race me									

YORK 2.95: The first four home in yesterday's 21-runner, six-furlong sprint were all drawn high, so Swiss Coast, in stall 21, looks to have a fine chance here, as does Petite Danseuse, in 13. But there should be plenty of pace in the middie of the track too, and AL AVA CONSONANT, who has shown promise in two outings at five furlongs, can improve now she is tried at this trip.

2.35: A desperately difficult contest to weigh up, particularly with Russ-ian Snows, who last raced in Dubai in February, in the field. She could prove to be better class than these but today it may be best to side with SHEMOZZIE. The latter put up an underrated performance when winning at Newmarket last month.

3.10: If Harbour Dues lines up his chance is obvious, but he can hardly now be supported with confi-

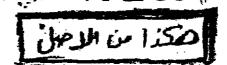


the yard that won this race last year, cannot be ruled out but the prize can go to CLERKENWELL Advantageously drawn close to the in-side, this colt will be well handled by useful apprentice Fergal Lyach. 000

3.45: This looks to be between The West and EASYCALL. The former won well at Goodwood but the latter was even more impressive two. days earlier at the same track.

4.15: Fahim is at short-odds for a four-timer. This colt, though, is invariably held up for a late run and may hit trouble from his inside draw, BILLY BUSHWACKER has been decreased in the analysis and any late. by now be supported with connidence after yesterday's mishap.

Henry Candy, who trains Besuch chann Jade, is unsure if this filly traces at a longer price.



tion to north London, where

Larder looks

to Roper

Missing steaks, beer/whisky and wo/men

Report 1300 Tuesday

Last night was long and very tiring - at sunset we continued to battle it out with France II (Dominic Bourgeois), having spent all afternoon crossing within metres of each other The night was pretty miserable for everyone in the rain... a measure of something, I guess. We made a big error by going too far north and ended up easing sheets to clear Dodman Point. The French followed us in, and we both lost our "comfort zone" lead and as the sky cleared in the early hours we could see seven boats in the fleet and the race restarted. That's yachting, I guess!

We have been going to wind-ward ever since, which is demotivating for us, as we can't get within 10 degrees of the heading of the other boats. Going through the straits between Land's End and the Isles of Scilly was a little tense, as we were losing ground rapidly, with the tide turning against us. A lift at the last minute saved us, and we have since climbed away from the Scots (we think) to hold on to the second place, with the French not too far ahead. Now we are all sailing away from land (at last) to-wards the Fastnet. Our biggest problem is our inability to point and we are already a mile to leeward of the French. Conrad Humphreys (first mate) and I have tried everything to solve this, and have considered turning the genoa around as I am

in the mean.

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Mark Turner, skipper of

England I, reports on the criss-cross chase of the Round Britain

Challenge '96 Aboard, the crew have been taking all this very well, despite the rain boredom. Conversation standards have dropped to low levels, none of which can be repeated, but the girls are firmly in charge it seems. Morale is excellent, and we are all meditating to get a wind direction change. Not one

person has complained yet

about anything, which sur-prises me - we have been moving crew weight around continuously, no peace at all. Sandwiches for lunch; to the delight of the crew these will be served in the sunshine on deck (crouched to leeward), with some dolphins in close company. The French are also having hmch, as we are following their trail of rubbish... We have a problem with the water which is causing a bit of a headache and we're having to boil any water used. Not sure what is happening but it is not very clean.

One of the amusing parts of the Teacher's Challenge is the inter-team communication each team has developed its own methods of trying to get a VHF link without others

coowing or understanding None of us can understand the Irish, although we've tracked down their channel and the French obviously don't realise that we can understand them -very amusing lis-

tening to their chats!!

A hundred and fifty slow miles to go to the Fastnet. We are hoping desperately for a change of wind so we can stop using our genoa. We know we can go faster on other points of sail. The crew are talking of "all" the things they are missing and I have already heard steaks, beer/whisky and wo/men. Just like all other offshore races, then, We have observed a new

phenomenon on board: FOF -Fear of Failure - experienced by all Teacher's Challenge crew as all are so concerned not to let their team-mates down. For Conrad and me, the last

24 hours have been pretty sleepless. With the competition between the five nations so close there has been a lot of adrenalin running and we have been having to support and teach the crew at the same time, which adds a new dimension to the sailing. The crew on board Pride of the Isle of Wight are a mixed lot from very different backgrounds. City finance managers are prone to certain injuries soft hands and light spinnaker sheets are causing blister prob-lems for Peter Tarimo.

We are in the middle of a chess game with the situation changing every 10 minutes.



ARL, and do not want to run the risk of losing them." Although the League here has made defiant noises about the ARL's tactics, the players

Photograph: James Wright/Double Red

themselves are already making their own arrangements, with Connolly and Robinson negotiating close-season contracts with rughy union clubs. The Great Britain manage-

Rugby League

The Great Britain coach, Phil

Larder, is resigned to losing three of his leading players

from the southern hemisphere

tour that starts next month and

will start the process of lining

up replacements tomorrow.

The Wigan pair of Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly,

plus Lee Jackson, who is now

with the Newcastle Knights in

Australia, are all under contract to the Australian Rugby

League, which says it will not al-

him them to play.
"We are realistic about the

prospect of losing them," Larder said, "It was always a

possibility after the ARL per-

suaded Gary to withdraw from

the Fiji Nines. They have had

large sums of money from the

DAVE HADFIELD

ment will discuss the situation tomorrow, but Larder will not make any decision on replacements until after the last Super League match of the season, between St Helens and Warrington next Monday.

That will give two members of his shadow squad the chance to impress, as Saints' Alan Hunte and Warrington's Jonathan Roper are both expected to play. Another candidate as a stand-in for Robinson is Jason Critchley, from Larder's Keigh-

and Hunte ley club, who scored six tries against Widnes on Sunday to

underline his claims. James Lowes of the Bradford Bulls is the favourite to take over from Jackson as one of the party's two specialist hookers.

The Conrad leisure group, which narrowly failed to take over Leeds United recently. has switched its attention to the city's rugby league club. The Leeds chairman, Denis Greenwood, said that talks had already taken place and that the club would welcome investment after a disastrous first season in Super League.

The chief executive of the Rugby League, Maurice Lind-say, has said union clubs are making a mistake by offering short-term contracts to league

"I am not been to see our play ers go but if rugby union are sil-ly enough to offer short-term contracts of £100,000 for a handful of games to our star players it would perhaps be unfair of me to prevent them earning such relatively easy money.
"I do not think it will happen

again next season. I cannot say that we are afraid of losing top stars to rughy union full-time as almost all of our best players are contracted until the end of the

"These contracts were scaled when the Australian Rugby League were over in 1995 trying to sign our players. In this respect, the ARL may have done us a favour."

Salford are complaining that, although the winners of the Stones Super League this weekend will receive £60,000, there is no prize for the First Division title, which Salford won last weekend.

YORK

sure it would look better.

2.05: 1. REVOQUE (/ Raid) 5-2; 2. Symoods Into 20-1; 3. In Command 8-11 fav. 7 ran. 2%, 1%. (P Chapple-Hyern, Manton). Tota: £3.30; £1.40, £3.70. Dual Forecest: £21.20. Computer Streight Forecast

2.35: 1. YOM JAMEEL (W.R. Swinburn) 11-2.35 1. YOM JAMES L. (W. R. SWITCH) 12. 1; 2. Willemander 13.2; 3. Mental Pressure 7-1. 10 rea. 7-2 ft fast Private Song & Berlin Blue. V., 1½, (M. Stoute, Neumanies). Total 514.70; 53.00, 52.40, 52.00. DF: 536.00. CSP. £78.03. Tricket: £502.83. This £155.10. 3.10: 1 HALLING (L Dettori) 6-4 fav. 2. First letend 3-1; 3. Eljois d'Inde 4-1. 6 ran. 3, 1½. (Sased bin Suroor, Newmerket), Totas: £2.30: £1.40, £2.00. DF: £3.70. CSF:

56.10.
3.45: 1. DUISHYANTOR (Pot Eidery) 3-1;
2. Mons 7-2; 3. Royal Court 11-4 tax, 6 nm., ½, ½, (1 Cecil, Newmorks), Totas: 53.10;
51.80, 51.80, Duni Forcast: 57.40, CSF;
513.21.

£13.21.
4.15: 1. OPTIONS OPEN (X Fallow) 9-1;
2. Double Splendour 4-1 fav; 3. Mari 20-1; 4. Cyrano's Lad 12-1. 21 ran. 2, 1½.
(Mar.) Ramséden, Trinsk), Totas: £10.00; £2.50.
£1.90. £5.80, £3.20. DF: £23.20. CSF:
£45.76. Tricast: £507.23. Tric. £252.40. Non
Rumer: Sient Expression.
4.45: 1. CELERIC (W Carson) 9-4 fax; 2.
Always Alacof 9-2; 3. Samuartino 8-1, 7 ran.

Always Aloof 9-2: 3. Samusatino 8-1, 7 ran. 2, nk. (D Morley, Newmarket). Yotac £2.70; £1.90, £1.90. DF: £6.50, CSF: £11.95. 5.15: 1 PENSION FUND (Dale Gloson) 8-2. Demolition Man 11-4 fav; 3. Nigith 1: 2. Demolition Men 11-4 fav; 3. Nieth Symptomy 12-1, 10 ran, hd, nk. (M W East-erby, Sheriff Hutton), Tothe: £10.30; £2.40, £1.50, £3.10. DF: £13.30. CSF. £30.50. Tel-cest: £258.77. Tric: £87.40. NRs: Enchant-ing Eu ing Eve & Zugluck

lackport: not won (pool of £27,210.83 carned forward to York today). Placepot: £132.60. Quadpot: £12.80. Place 8: £197.25. Place 5: £56.45. FOLKESTONE

2.20: 1. PRINCESS OF HEARTS (R McGhr) 5-1; 2. Heavenly Dancer 5-2 fay; 3. Glany Wossersente 4-1. 7 ran. 4, 3%, (W Haggas, Newmarket). Totae: 57-30: 52.90. 51,80. DF: 53,80. CSF: £18.36. This: 520,30. Non Rumers: Dashing Rocksville &

Woodland Dove.
2.50: 1. THE R-LAWS (G Duffield) 5-2:
2. Metribush 7-4 for; 3. Cowthares 9-2. 8
ran. nk, ½. (Sir Mark Prescott, Newmarkst).
Total: 13.50: £1.50. £1.10, £1.40. DF; £4.20.
CSF: £6.55.
2.25: 1. RISSING SPRAY (Paul Eddery) 5-CSF: £6.55.
3.25: 1. RISING SPRAY (Paul Edrey) 52 fav; 2. Greenwich Again 9-2; 3. Zeilina
4.1 6 ma. 2%, 1%, (C. Horgan, Woldingham).
Toba: £2.90; £1.70, £2.90, DF. £4.60, CSF.
£12.51.

£12.51.
4.00: 1. FAILED TO NIT (6 Duffield) 5-6 fax; 2. Shawlasty 5-2; 3. 8 Doris 5-1. 6 ran. 1/. 3. Sir Mark Prescott, Newmarket), Total: 51.70: £1.10, £1.50. DF; £2.00. CSF; £3.27. Non Rumer, National. £1.70: £1.70; £1.70; £1.70: £1.70: £1.70; £1

CSF: £55.10.

5.00: 1. CANDLE SMOKE (Gaye Harwood)
7.2; 2. Janualeus Pilgint 11-2; 3. Perfect
GR: 9-1. 8 ran. 3-1 for Influence Pedier (4m).
6, 1%. (G. Harwood, Pubocough). Tota:
£3.50: £1.80, £1.80, £2.00. DF: £14.20.
CSF: £20.63. Tricast £136.56.
Photopet: £48.60. Quadrot: £10.60.
Place S: £38.87. Place 5: £18.69.

John Gosden's Head Over Heels (Cash Asmussen) and the Chris Dwyer-trained Jennelle (Jo Humam) finished second and third to Clever Caption (Olivier Pestier) in the Listed Prix de la Vallee d'Auge over five furiongs at Desuville yesterday. Head Over Hees had no answer to the late burst of the André Fabre-trained winner, a 31-10



HYPERION

2.15 Kalimat 2.45 Cutthroat Kid 3.20 Stormless 3.55 Silca's My Key 4.25 Mezzanotte 4.55 Sage

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). STALLS: Straight course – stands' aide; DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. ■ Left-hand galloping course.
■ Rececourse is east of town on the A758. Ayr rull station (service from (dasgow) one thile away. ADMISSION: Club 512; Grandstand S7 (OAPs half-price). CAE PARK: Free.

ory 5.05 Akiymann

RLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

RS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Another Nightnere (4.55) which has been a server half and the regarding (4.0b) who is Hamilton on Monthly.

LONG-DISTANCE EUROPERS: Newmarks bained maners have been sent 360 miles; Silea Key Silea (2.15), Danegold (3.20) & Silea's My Key (3.55) sent 357 miles by M Channon from Lambourn, Berks.

HYPERION

2.25 Beam Me Up Scotty 2.55 Regal Gem 3.30 Pond House 4.05 Shahrani 4.35 Distant Mem-

250 yards.

Course is 5m SW of Exister on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock 53; Silver Ring 54.50 (accompanied under-16s free).

CAE PARE: 52 on rails; 52 members; remainder free.

LINKERED FIRST TIME: Beam Me Up Scotty (visored) (2.25);

won at Newton Abbot on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE EDINERS: Chebourth Welf (2.25) has been sen; 154 miles by J Spearing from Winford, Warwicks, Wangwin (5.05) sen; 151 miles by F Yazdier from Boreley, H'ford & Wores.

2.25 BRAMBLE CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 2m

- 7 declared -- 1 declared -Minimum: 10st. True weights: Courr Bettert Set 13tt, Stastiantow Set. HETHNE: 2-1 Denomination, 5-2 Buglet, 7-2 Beam Me Up Scotty, 4-1 Nursio Cross, 12-1 Courr Battant, 25-1 Chebroth, Worf, 64-1 Starshedow

2.55 INTERLINK EXPRESS DELIVERY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 1f 110yds

40 PLET CHOE (15) M Ppo 5 11 5 ______ D Shiftenin 8
PO.P223 MATLEY (15) N Having 6 11 5 ______ Cullety (2)

COORFO- FALCONS DAWN (187) S Knight 9 11.5 __ Miles I. Miles

sh Park (2.55). ERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Distant Memory (4.35)

inlating course. Stiff test of stamina. Run-in of

EBF KIRKOSWALD MAIDEN STAKES 3 (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO filles 6f

- 4 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Gilding The Lily, Thehabyah, 7-2 Kajimat, Silca Key Silca 2.45 FAILFORD SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 5f

- 5 deciared - 5 Deciared - 5 Mexicol - 5

3.20 AUCHENCRUIVE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 2f

BETTERO: 9-4 Floot Codet, 3-1 Regis Gent, 4-1 Medicy, 9-2 Scottish Park, 5-1 Alexana, 33-1 February Down, 50-1 Miss Foxy

3.30 CITY OF EXETER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 2m 3f

4.05 INTERLINK EXPRESS PARCELS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 2m 3f

111, SHAHRAM (13) M Pon 4 12 1 _____ D Bridges 30-213 BORN TO PLEASE (21) (BF) P Hotels 4 11 3 ____ A P McD 060- ON MY TOPS (90) R Front 5 10 9 _____ J Pro

4.35 INTERLINK EXPRESS DATA NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 3f

BETTHE: 5-4 Distant Mousery, 9-4 Rabert's Toy, 9-2 October Brew, 8-1 Deballo, 25-1 Tange's Deligit, 22-1 Hobops Castle, 25-1 others

5.05 INTERLINK FREIGHT NOVICE HANDICAP

HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f

_____D Bridgester i

-3 sectored -RETENG: 1-3 Shakerel, 11-4 Born To Please, 16-1 On My Toes

= 2 deciared = RETING: 4-7 Pond House, 5-4 Healey Registra

NAMONLE FLYER (5) N Bycsot 4 7 10.

- 10 declared -BETTING: 9-2 Noon No Bounds, 5-1 Denoglid, Sacior's Resist, 11-2 Field Of Vision, 8-1 May Albiox, 7-2 Stormicos, 8-1 Orchited, 20-1 others

3.55 MINISHANT NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2YO 1m E) 2-A-500 attomed 270 Tim
335-Di Berrs Ridge (22) Phashm 9 7
4002 Our Phillips 9 1
366 GOLERAL'S STAY (34) M Starts 6 13
361202 SEACH SH WEY (22) M Charton 8 12
221043 RIM LILCY REN (44) R Gents 8 5
00036 CALIN SURGET (14) T Easterly 8 1
5502-6 APICINATE (28) W Memp 7 10
— 7 declared

Minimum weigne 7st 10to. Tour kardisen weigne Apicaldie 7st ?te. BESTRIKE 3-1 Slien's My Kay, 7-2 General's Stor, 4-1 Our Peture, Ridge, Ram Lucy Rom, 8-1 Cajon Stonet, 20-1 Apicalate

	ARRAN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAK (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 7!
	DONAK ANAM (26) J Gosten 9 0 Carro
	MEZZAMORTE (45) (BF) L Curren 9 0 Porton
0.5304	ROUSHAN (77) S Williams 90 124
	CODERS D Lindow & C

- 4 declared otto, 5-2 Domek Amazes, 11-4 Rossban, 14-1 So-4.55 AYR SUMMER HANDICAP (CLASS E)

452301 ANOTHER PACHTMANE (2) R McYellar 4 8 0 K Shed (7) 4

7.10 WORMEREDGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

7.40 ACONBURY NOVICE HANDICAP SKY

BETTRIG: 100-30 Sagutousis Roller, 7-2 Austrier Hightmann, 4-1 Baller, Lady, 9-2 Superpride, 6-1 Hagic Lake, 8-1 Patheze, Miss Pigalio

HEREFORD

HYPERION

5.40 Lord Tomanico 6.10 Manamour 6.40 Wynberg 7.10 Chancey Felia 7.40 Mutual Agreement 8.10 Red Tel Eligh-hand course with 300yd run-in.

References is north of city on A49. Hereford railway station is one mile away. ADMISSION: Club 5 12; Tauctsalis 52; course enclosure 55. CAR PARK: Prec.

BLINEERD PIEST TREE: None. WONNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Wysberg (+. 4/1) won at Stratford on Saturday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Entherine's Song (6.10) has been sent 109 miles by D M Hyde from Woodlands, Berkshare

5.40 MUCH MARCLE CONDITIONALS HCAP HTDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 2m 3f 110yds GL-OSCU BATTY'S ISLAND (4) B Prece 7 11 10 ... D Finnight 0 1 LORD TOMANICO (70) (21) C Marm 4 11 10 ... J Ming 04-2 CHIMA MAIL (11) K Baisy 4 11 8 ... T J Ming 04-2 CHIMA MAIL (11) K Baisy 4 11 8 ... T J J Ming 04/550-5 SUMPERY MAX (200) R1 Judies 12 10 7 ... R Many 08/40-34 KIMS OF BARNION (21) F Johan 4 10 3 ... J. Aug

– 6 deciared – SETTING: 5-4 Lord Tomasico, 7-4 China Hall, 7-1 King Of Babylon, Slippery Max, 12-1 Suknah, 18-1 Butty's Island 6.10 MALVERN LINK HANDICAP CHASE (CLA

3 0-53131 MARROUX CREEN ES (ES (ES) | Badley 9 10 13 (7e) II John - 3 declared -BEITING: 6-4 Dramstick, 7-4 Maggats Green, 9-4 Marrouser

6.40 HENDRE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS £3,800 added 3m 2f Sm 1f 110yds
FU343-3 DMC OF LANCASTER (16) Ms J Persan 7 12 0.8 Bellumy V
48P4-52 CUCHULLARS GOLD (16) Whote 9 11 9 ... It Williamson
50P42- MIRTURAL AGREEMENT (473 P Nichola 9 11 2 ... A P McDay
0-59 MISS DOTTY (82) M Pips 6 10 7 D Religiously
00-0015F SPANST MLXZ (9) Ms Mentra loves 8 10 5 J F THE
44PP-0-6 CHEDAM (12) A Hobbs 10 10 5 S Powell

mby (7) | Powell | Englar

yds		- 6 declared -	'
(2) B	BETTWE: 7-	Cochatains Gold, 9-4 Dake of Languager, 3-1 Meters	ľ
	Cont. 6-1 H	lies Dotty, 14-1 Spenish Maze, 25-1 Cardan	
-	_		
	2 10	BORDER OPEN NH FLAT RACE	ÿ
epel	<u> </u>	BORDER OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,600 2m 1f	ŗ
-		LATE ENCOURTER (16) B Uswellyn 5 11 4	
, 8-1	2 60	MORECEVA (20) Paddy Famel 6 11 4	ı
	3 3	PRIDEWOOD FLORE (34) R Pros 6 11 4	F
LSS	4 1	R RARE SPREAD (53) (BF) M Pape 5 11 4	H
133	5 0	SIERRA NEVADA (145) P Nictiolis 5 11 4	ļ
_		COMMANDO DANCER (34) Gine Ros 4 11 1. Sheen Gin O OVERSEAS DARROER (42) P Eccles 4 11 1	2
ص		POWERFUL SPIRIT (42) J O'Shee 4 11 1 Michael Bru	
		RED TEL (16) 44 Pgc 4 11 1 D Bri	:
	10	TAILOGUADE PUTURE 8 Progre 4 11 1 D Figure	3
	ü	ARREYDORAN Mrs. J. Howkes S 10 13	i
	12	ENGLY Kennets 5 10 12T C No.	
8	13 03	3 XATHARDE'S SONG (165 D M High 6 10 13	ľ
,	1= 0	- PROZZEMU, (179) C Brooks 4 10 10 D @	4
		- 14 declared -	
ter V	DET 1942, 2-1	Red Tel, 7-2 Powerful Spirit, 4-1 Pridemond Puggle, 6	H
1000	Second. 7-1	Extination's Stool 16-1 Comments Consus 20-1 of	٠

HYPERION

1f 110yds

5.30 Misky Bay 5.55 Entrepreneur 6.25 Dear Life 6.55 Sandstone 7.25 BLOWN OVER (nap) 7.55 Broughtons Turnoit

GOING: Good (Good, Good to Firm in places).
STALLS: Straight course - far side; remainder - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5(4 5f; high for IT (Sound DHAW ALIVANTAKIN: LOW for on 6. or; mgm for 77 (Stound course).

Right-hand course. Separate straight, course for M and 67 races.

Course is on A308 at Sunbury. But this from Richmond Underground statem. Kempton Pk rathway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Grandstand £10, Juniors (16 to 25-year-olds) £8; Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: Members £2; remainder, free.

ELINGERED FIRST TIME: Safecracker (5.30).
WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Alleters Rocket (5.30)
won at Hamilton on Wednesday. won at Homiton on Wednesday.

LONG-DETANCE EUNNEES: Pointer (7.55) has been sent 149 miles by Mrs Nerys Destield from Asmouth, Devog; Velenteer (8.25) & Al Shanti (7.55) have been sent 120 miles by R O'Sullivan from 5.30 FORESTER APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 1m 2f

- 3 declared -getting: 4-61 Abbyengen, 4-1 Whatyola, 6-1 Embley Sury

5.55 EBF CONFEDERACY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 added 210 7f

___C Hacken S ____C Hatler 9 SINGRIM mas 90_

— 15 declared — point, 5-1 Prairie Feloou, 7-1 Silver Petriarch, 10-1 Shebal, Pennys From Hemen, 14-1 others 6.25 RACING & FOOTBALL OUTLOOK HANDICAP

CHARMEN TOUS (25) R ROSSEN 9 0 Dom O'Holl 14
ELERN M CHARM 9 0 P Marphy (5) 22
MORTHEREN GUY (15) C Britain 9 0 E Doyle 7
REASSONN TREE A Moore 9 0 C Femer 10
MORTHEREN GUY (15) C Britain 9 0 C Femer 10

- y cacared -BETTHN: 6-2 Welcome Prende, 4-1 Leading Spirit, Romiou, 5-1 Haya Ya Ke-taab, 6-1 Artic, Courier, 7-1 Dear Lille, 10-1 Hobie Spidator, 14-1 others 6.55 GO EVENING RACING WITH THE DAILY

C) £7,650 added 2YO 7f

BETTHNR: 11-4 Greet Gestion, 3-4, Tarski, 4-1 Berees, 9-2 Sandstone, 7-1 Rall Pasadise, 8-1 Truckny, 10-1 Masical Cancer

7.25 EBF WIGAN MEDIAN AUCTION SKY £3.750 added 2YO 6f ECOOD ORANGE & Marginson 9 0...

3 MRADINO (18) J Alebust 9 C... SPANSK WARRION) Hits 9 C...

02	TEST THE INSTER (7) R Harmon 9 0	Part Foldons I
6	BLOWN-ONER (11) A Sevent 89	D Marriaga (1
00	CHILLI BOOM (22) T J Naustann 8 D	T Same 1
04	ELIMAY LADY (21) Balang 8 9	W Rom 2
0	HICH FLYER (USA) (22) M Ball B 9	W Seedow 1
٤	O/603400K ROSE (23) B Smart 8 9	
	POYAL ROULETTE S Woods 8 9	. D Mate. 1
2226	SALFORIRS (32) R Williams 8 9	D R McCabe 17
	WIN PRINCESS B Meters B9	M Tebbuit 1
	- 17 declared -	_
TH-241	Marango, 6-1 Blown Over, Test The Water lose, Indifferent Coy, 12-1 Elemy Lade, 1	8-1 Soundary, 10

7.55 CUNLIFFE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 7f (round course) 633433 BROUGHTONS TURNOR (17) (D) W Musson 7 9 11

163541 HONORMALE STATE (S) FIJR Phonon 3 9 10 500 Dame Offeit 12
D31142 POWITE (S) (D) (MP) Mrs P Dottlet 4 8 13 Almoe Cook (S) 5
6-45 LADY SARENL (20) S Com 3 8 12 W Ren 1
C65010 SOMERIC (20) (ED) P BURDING 5 8 11 D R McCabe 15
D00044 ASTRAL'S CHANCE (341) K Bules 3 8 4 M Fembra 9
ALONS MINISTER 17 I Navitan 3 8 1 T Spories 2

= 16 declared =

SETTING: 9-2 Retence Of Power, 5-1 Windows's Right, 6-1 Pringlishes Turmail, 7-1 Spanded, 8-1 Pointer, 10-1 Paddy's Rice, 12-1 others

Colin McRae, has been fined

Changes in F1 set to cause conflict

Motor racing

Formula One is heading for confrontation after major changes were announced by the FIA, the sport's ruling body, yesterday. The scrapping of Friday practice and the increase in the num-

ber of races in a season by one to 17 - with a guarantee by the teams of 20-car grids - are among the main changes. Prize-money has also been scrapped to be replaced with a system of dividing the vast amounts of television money the sport generates, which will af-

fect the revenue of successful

teams like Williams, who are not commenting on the changes. Williams, who last week won the constructors' championship for the eighth time, have withdrawn from the Concorde Agreement between FIA and the teams. McLaren and Tyrrell have refused to sign the agreement which, in theory, could lead to their non-participation in future races. They would be allowed to compete with the consent of

the Formula One Commission. But without the participation of teams like Williams and McLaren, it would be impossible for the other teams to ensure 20-car grids for the races. Only the likes of Benetton and Ferrari have the financial clout to use three cars in races instead of two.

It is believed that Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell objected to the loss of Friday's practice on safety grounds. They argued it was necessary to have a day to set cars up correctly for both qualifying and racing. Two free practice sessions will now be held on Saturday mornings followed by qualifying in the afternoon. FIA said the changes were

part of a package of alterations made to the new formal accord with some of the teams to run from 1997 to 2001. They also include an agreement by the teams to stay in Formula One until 2001, while FIA also said the teams would in future accept an 80 per cent majority instead of unanimous agreement for any sporting or technical changes. Teams would agree not to test

anywhere in the week before a race or between the end of the season, usually October or November, and 1 December. The world rally champion.

£167,000 - £117,000 of it suspended - after running into spectators in a service area during last mouth's Argentinian Rally.

** THE INDEPENDENT ** INDEPENDENT ** PHILIPS ON SUNDAY



PlayIndependent Fantasy Football

ou've seen the rest now play the best in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Independent Fantasy Football, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs. brings you the first real innovation in fantasy football allowing you to pick the playing formation of your team. You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

So take up the challenge and prove your skill as a manager to win a football fan's dream prize and the opportunity to gloat over friends and colleagues well into the 1997-98 season.

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

HOW TO ENTER

from the following four options:

FORMATION A. 4-4-2 4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers FORMATION B. 4-3-3 4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers FORMATION C. 5-3-2 5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers FORMATION D. 3-5-2 3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.



one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the po-sitions that they are listed under and the team's total value must Using your football knowledge decide your team formation not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name. Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phoneline carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal dife made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the stan-10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and dard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a

pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a zed

card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they

draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

	Team	Selection	Fori	n
	-	Name	Code	Yalue
	Goalkeeper			
	Defender 1			
	Defender 2			
	Defender 3			
	Defender 4			
`	Defender 5			
.	Midfielder 1			
	Midfielder 2			
	Midfielder 3			
	Midfielder 4			
	Midfielder 5			
	Striker 1	· _		
	Striker 2			
	Striker 3			
	Manager			
	PIN No.		Total £	

POINT SCORES:

4 points for a goal 🗷 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays 🗷 1 point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw Lose I point for a yellow card Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call: UK 0891-252-244 (tone) UK 0891-252-234 (pulse) Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK cells cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. Republic of Ireland calls cost 58p per minute including VAT at all times.

INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE PLAYE	R TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
GOA 300 Seaman 303 Bosnich 304 Flowers 305 Kharine 306 Hitchcoc 307 Ogrizovi	ARS AV BLA CHE CHE COV	5.9 4.0 5.2 3.7 1.5	457 458 459 460 463 464 465 466 466	Watson Unsworth Hottiger Hinchcliffe Jobson Kelly Wetherall Dorigo Pemberton	EVE EVE EVE LEE LEE LEE LEE LEE	2.7 3.0 2.2 1.9 2.7 3.6 3.5 3.2 1.2	553 554 555 600 603	Reeves Thorn Thatcher MIDFI Merson Platt	WIM WIM WIM ELDEI ARS ARS	1.8 1.8 2.7 2.5 4.4 4.8	687 688 689 690 693 694 695 696	Woan Bart-Williams Stone Gemmill Parker Taylor Izzett Waddle Blinker	NOT NOT NOT NOT LEI LEI LEI SW SW	3.4 3.6 5.0 3.0 2.5 1.6 2.1 2.7 2.7 2.2	856 857 858 859 860 863 864 865 866	Claridge Heskey Robins Cantona Scholes Cole Fjortoft Ravanelli Barmby	LEI LEI MU MU MU MID MID MID	3.0 2.8 2.0 8.1 5.0 6.2 3.1 8.0 6.7
308 Filan 309 Southall 330 Martyn 333 James 335 Poole 336 Hoult 337 Schmeic 338 Walsh 339 Srnicek	COV EVE LEE LIV LEI DER	3.0 3.3 4.7 1.5 1.6 5.5 3.0	468 469 470 473 474 475 476 477	Walsh Grayson : Whitlow Watts Babb Jones Wright Ruddock Scales :		2.2 2.2 1.2 1.6 3.7 2.7 2.8 3.0	604 605 606 607 608 609 630 633 634	Parlour Heider Hillier Taylor Townsend Daner Prins Waleys Ripley	ARS ARS ARS AV AV AV	24 3.7 1.5 1.9 3.1	698 699 700 703 704 705	Jones Hyde Magilton Venison Heaney M. Gray Kae Sanew	SW SW. SOT SOT SOT SUM	216 128 224 227 230 1918	867 868 869 870 873 874	Beardsley Asprilla Ferdinand Saunders Roy Campbell Booth Hinst Bright	NEW NEW NOT NOT NOT SW SW SW	4.4 7.4 8.6 5.2 4.8 3.1 4.4
340 Hislop 343 Crossley 344 Wright 345 Beasant 346 Pressma 347 Coton 348 Walker 349 Mikloska 350 Sullivan	NEW NOT NOT SOT SW SUN TOT	3.7 2.7 1.3 1.8 2.7 1.8 3.4 3.0 1.8	479 480 483 484 485 486 487 488 489	Harkness Neville (G) Neville (P) Irwin Pallister May Vickers Pearson Whyte	MU MU MID MID MID MID MID	4.4 2.2 3.7 3.7 4.1 4.9 3.0 2.2 2.2	635 636 637 638 639 640 643 644 645	Sherwood Phicroff Galli Di Matteo Wise Newton Peacock Salako	REA REA CHE CHE CHE CHE COV	3.7 2.4 2.1 2.4 1.8	730 736 736 736 737 738 739	Bishop Jones Bishop Jones	TO T	3.2 3.0 3.6 3.7 2.7 2.7	- 884 - 885 - 886 - 887 - 888	Le Tissier Shipperley Waison Kelly Stewart Sheringham Armstrong Rosenthal Futre	SOT SOT SOT SUN SUN TOT TOT TOT	2.5 7.0 3.7 2.2 2.1 2.3 7.4 5.9 2.1 4.0
400 Dixon 403 Winterb 404 Bould 405 Adams 406 Keown	ARS ARS ARS	3.1 3.1 3.0 5.3 3.7	490 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500	Cox Albert Howey Peacock Barton Berestord Cooper Chettle Jerkan	MID NEW NEW NEW NEW NOT NOT NOT	33 22 30 24	646 647 648 650 653 654 655	Rechardson McAllister Jess Simmson Asanovic Van Der Laa Ebbrell Kanchelskis Parkinson	EVE EVE EVE	214 950 22 2 12 22 116 1.9 6.7	743 743 744 800 800	Ardley. STRIK Bergkamp	ERS	7.0	890 890 894 895	200	WHE WISH WISH WISH	33 45 32 27
407 Stauntor 408 Southgat 409 McGrati 430 Ehiogu 433 Wright 434 Tiler 435 Berg 436 Le Saux 437 Coleman 438 Hendry	AV AV AV AV BLA BLA	3.0 5.2 3.0 3.0 3.4 1.2 3.4 4.0 3.7 4.4	503 504 505 507 507 508 509 530 533 534	Lyttle Pearce Monkou Dodd Benali Chariton Nolan Atherton Walker Stefanovic	NOT NOT SOT SOT SOT SW SW SW SW	13 34 25 22 22 22 12 19 19 25 1.6	665 665 667 668	Stuart Ustant Bowyer Wallace Palace Barnes Bernes Redknapp McManaman McAteer Thomas	EVE LIV LIV LIV LIV LIV LIV LIV	22 7 3.0 1.8 3.0 3.0 5.2 5.9 3.7 3.0	806 806 807 808 839 830 834 835 836	Markette Johnson Josephine Josephine Stream Surhon Vialli Hughes Spencer	NEW BLA CHE CHE	11.1 3.7 8.1 4.4 2.5	900 903 904 905 905 908 908 909 930 933	Refigan Fermis Fermis Risch Royle Harford Francis Wilkinson Redknapp Gullit	ARS EVE BLA TOT LEE WH CHE	8.0 9.0 7.0 6.0 5.5 5.5 5.0 3.5 3.3 4.5
439 Kenna 440 Duberry 443 Petrescu 444 Phelan 445 Lebeouf 446 Sinclair 447 Minto 448 Daish 449 Shaw 450 Burrows 453 Stimac 454 Powell 455 Wassall 456 Short	BLA CHE CHE CHE COV COV COV DER DER EVE	1.9 3.0 3.0 1.9 4.4 2.2 1.3 2.7 2.2 2.2 2.3 3.3 1.8 2.2 3.0	535 536 537 538 539 540 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550	Meiville Kubicki Ball Campbell Calderwood Austin Edinburgh Mabbutt Dicks Bilic Reiper	SUN SUN TOT TOT TOT TOT WH WH WH WH WH	22 1.2 2.7 2.9 2.2 1.6 2.7 3.5 3.7 2.7	670 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 683 684 684	Giggs Beckham Keane Butt Sharpe Juninho Emerson Hignett Moore Lee Batty Gillespie Gimola Clark	MU MU MU MU MID MID MID NEW NEW NEW NEW	7.4 52 65 45 30 5.9 44 2.5 12 3.6 4.5 4.0 4.2 3.0	838 839 840 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 853 854 855	Dublin Whelan Ndlowu Gabbiadini Ward Sunridge Ferguson Amakachi Rideout Yeboah Rush Deane Collymore Fowler	COV COV COV DER DER EVE EVE EVE LEE LEE LIV LIV	4.7 5.2 4.3 3.5 2.5 3.0 6.7 3.7 3.0 5.9 5.2 3.0 8.1 9.5	934 935 936 937 938 939 940 943	Clark Robson Reid Somess O'Neill Smith Kinnear Atkinson Linle Pleat	NOT MID SUN SOT LEI DER WIM COV AV SW	3.3 5.0 2.0 2.3 1.8 2.0 2.2 4.0 5.0 3.5

RULES AND CONDITIONS
1. Only carries and via The Independent of the Independent on Sunday Fantasy Football from selection of the Independent on Sunday Fantasy Football from selection you may only use the players published in the official first princed in the Independent on Sunday Fantasy Football from selection you may only use the players published in the official first princed in The Independent in Sunday Fantasy Football results are calculated on all matches in the FA Carring which represent described in "How to Score".

3. Entries must compose 11 players and one of the from the Independent on Sunday.

3. Entries must compose of a good-laceper or a defendent on Sunday.

4. FA Carring Premiership football for the Independent for the Independent for the Independent on Sunday.

5. Compary of the Independent on Sunday.

6. Compary of the Independent on Sunday

be published in connection with Pantasy Pool-ball. There is no limit to the number of en-

ball. There is no limit to the number of entries any person or household may make by individual entry. One FIN claim number will be insued for each valid team registration. You must keep your Plus claim number sale.

12. Closing date for entries is 5pm, 11 September 1996.

13. The competition is open to residents of the competition of the land only. Entrant under 18 mass the able to provide written permission from parent or guardian if requisited and ask permission from the permission from parent or guardian if required and ask permission from the permission from the permission from the permission from the permission from parent or guardian if required and ask permission from the permission from parent or guardian if the permission from parent or guardian if the permission from parent or guardian if the permission from parent or guardian is permission from parent or guardian in the permission from parent or guardian is provided to charged at 39p per minute the permission from parent or guardian is permission.

e all other times, Republic of Ireland calls will cost 55p per minute including VAT at all ritimes. Entries made by pay phone will cost approximately double that of 8 normal approximately double that of 8 normal approximately double that of 8 normal phone. Your call should not less more than 6.5 minutes, Make any your team selection is scorrect before dealing so that your call is for the minimum daration.

17. Newspaper Publishing ple reserves the right to stop the game at any time and change it the conditions. The Editor's decision is the conditions. The Editor's decision is final in all matters relating to the game. No currespondence, either in writing or by a telephone, will be entered into.

the leader page

The first step towards a working constitution

only a minority of members of the House of Lords work, what purpose do the rest serve? The simple answer is hat non-working peers cling on in membership of this genteel club by the Thames because, despite recent spasms, we remain constitutionally inert, stuck in the aspic of tired tradition. Generations of political leaders take a bow Jim Callaghan, curtsy Lady Thatcher – have wilfully refused to confront the anomalies ... and with them the sheer inefficiency of our system of making law.

The new lists are, in part, predictable party pay-off - who said we do not operate a spoils system in this country? Still, some of the names glitter. Maurice Saatchi, whatever we may think of his contributions to the art of political advertising, is a man of wide bring himself to throw off the shackles of party decorum, his contributions to debate on, say, arts funding will be party and attitudinal make-up of worth listening to. Liz Symons, in charge of that most anomalous of trade unions, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, has made herself a monitor of fair practice in Whitehall. Sir Richard Rogers is more than a renowned architect; he has interesting views on urban form, the future of London and urban living generally. Per-

Tew lists of "working peers" were haps subsequent debates will give the announced yesterday - which lie to Bagehot's aphorism that the prompts an obvious question. If cure for admiring the House of Lords was to go and look at it.

> But a few good names on party lists are no substitute for reform. The time has never been riper. If even the House of Windsor can muster a think-in on the shape of the monarchy as the century turns, then the political class of this country has no excuse finally to engage in the renewal and revitalisation of the institutions of governance. Reform of the Lords is not an act of vandalism or mindless "tinkering". The only object is to make malfunctioning, underperforming government work better.

There are three options. The first, outright abolition of the Lords, is made suspect by the way it would further concentrate political and legislative power in a single chamber, the record of which is so second-rate, as we have reported in recent days and experience and taste. Provided he can months. Of course the House of Commons could be more fairly elected reflecting more proportionately the electors. But to make it the sole carrier of collective will would remove an opportunity for revision, and reflection, of a kind that a second chamber could offer. Bicameral government is the norm in the Western world, for the good reason that good government is perceived to be second-thoughts government. Most jurisdictions attempt in



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their second chambers to draw in what used to be called "bottom", a capacity to reflect which does not entirely correlate with senatorial age but is born of experience. You don't have to go all the way with Harold Macmillan in believing "calm deliberation untangles every knot" to welcome the retention of an upper chamber.

And if it is to stay as part of the legslative process it should be elected. The condition of modern democracy is a jealous one. If government is to be for the people and by the people, we cannot tolerate a second chamber based on the competing principles of

aristocracy or autocracy. The House of Lords is a weird and wonderful hybrid of blood, executive will and patronage - plus a smattering of merit and whatever it is that the bench of Anglican bishops now bring to the party. (Even the Tories, pretended keepers of the Constitution, find it hard to justify the present composition of the Lords. It comes close to the position of those members of the pre-1832 Commons who argued that the fate of England depended on the continuing election of members for Old Sarum - an unin-

habited mound outside Salisbury.) Election matters - which is why

is in many ways a worst-of-both-worlds solution: the chamber is retained as a part of the law-making procedure but remains unelected. Better by far to confront this choice: either emancipate the Lords from the formal business of law-making or else formalise the bicameral system and elect the members of the upper house.

A purely deliberative chamber - the third option - might, for example, have the right to call for papers and persons (as the parliamentary formula goes), even to have sight of proposals for law or the text of bills. Its findings would command attention because of their cogency and weight but it would have no formal share in making law. Such a chamber might well include the likes of Peter Gummer since, like it or not, PR people are now significant players. But it would need to draw on a pool of talent wider than party whips wish lists. Its ranks would include rabbis and cardinals as well as bishops, company as well as permanent secretaries and, of course, more women.

But, attractive though aspects of such a proposal sound, it runs secondbest to the creation in Britain of what exists in the United States as in Germany - a senate or legislative council, elected and possessing a plenitude of power but distinct from the house of representatives or national assembly below it. Elected for longer terms,

Labour's short-term plan for the Lords elected from the regions or elected on principles of proportionality, all its members would be "working neers" working at the business of collecting and spending the public's money. at making and monitoring the laws, at deliberating on the affairs and more accurately expressing the will of the peoples and nations of the United Kingdom than the present set-up possibly can. Let's hope vesterday's announcement is a weak but cheerful premonition of full-scale reform.

All the skills of a lawyer

The London School of Economics was Lonce the hotbed of socialism. It did of course also produce generations influenced rightwards by Robbins, Popper and von Hayek, Still, Sidney Webb will be spinning in his grave at the results of a survey out today: LSE is the preferred source of recruits to those most conservative professions, banking and accountancy. According to the survey LSE now offers Oxbridge formidable competition in the attractiveness of its students to employers. Not that employers all make fine judgements. Law firms want them to be clever, true, but "in law social skills don't matter". It doesn't take much contact with a solicitor to confirm the point.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

No apology for a summer of research

Sir: Your leader ("Lessons of the scramble for university places", 19 August) proposes one explanation for current admissions procedures: "It looks as though the nation's academies are reluctant to give up their research, trips to foreign universities or just their month in ine Dordogne for the sake of ... a post A-level admissions system that will secure fairness and peace of mind for thousands of young people." I would like to offer a different perspective.

Our universities are built on the twin pillars of teaching and research. The range of courses. quality of tuition and educational opportunities provided by research-led universities depend crucially on the quality and diversity of lecturers' research. A research community which is able to recruit and retain the best educators, to offer the most innovative courses of study, to forge links with sister institutions around the world and to attract the cream of visiting professors. provides an unrivalled learning environment. I am not embarrassed to refuse to "give up my research", partly because that would be tantamount to giving up

on my students, too. Research is what I am paid (not much) to do. But my research is under threat. With deep cuts in government funding and declining staff-student ratios come extra teaching, extra exam setting and marking, additional pastoral responsibilities and more administration, to say nothing of our monstrously resource-intensive quality assessment procedures and the time and money we are now obliged to waste competing in the educational "marketplace" Research gets squeezed out to evenings and weekends. The summer recess (from the beginning of July, when examination boards are completed, to the start of September, when meetings resume (is now the only period in which conferences, networking with colleagues in institutions? abroad and substantial research projects may be undertaken. A month in the Dordogne sounds very attractive, but I have only

PAUL ROBERTY Lan Department University of Nottingham

managed one. 10-day summer holiday in the last three years.

Sir. It was sad to see such a superficial analysis of the university admissions process in your leader. Much as I sympathise with the 40,000 candidates at present entering the uncertainty of the clearing system. I cannot see that any procedure requiring 400,000 candidates to be assessed and offered university places within a period of six weeks in August and September will improve the situation and "secure fairness and peace of mind for thousands of

young people".

For all its faults our present system does ensure that over 85 per cent of candidates secure a place in a university of their choice in good time to organise their finances and accommodation; it enables students with special needs and disabilities to be assessed sympathetically, it allows overseas students time to secure visas and funding: above all. it fits candidates to courses which will suit them, producing a university student population with the lowest drop-out rate of anywhere in the world, which is the ency of all our competitors.

We would all welcome a post-More than 30 per cent of qualification applications system undergraduates are now mature and Lendy wish it was as easy to students, most of whom do not take implement as you suggest. All we as A-levels in the year of their in Cambridge is that the process

application. To this group could be idded applicants to Oxbridge. which would still continue to interview and make offers ore-A-level. It is clear that very soon pressure would build up, at least from the better candidates, to be

medical schools and universities offering teacher training courses all require personal interviews. We could, of course, go back to the post A-level system which Cambridge operated happily for mam years. This, however, required all students to take a year off between school and university. Alternatively, we could look at introducing a four-term year intoschools. This suggestion has been much welcomed by many educationalists and narents, and would enable the final school. examinations to be taken earlier in the year without a significant loss of Reading, Berkshire

teaching time. Fembroke College, Cambridge

gives us time to interviewall our

60 per cent of all our candidates

both to the colleges and to most

students and schools. Equally,

chieve at least three A grades at

A-level, and assessment by A-level

grades alone would be unacceptable

candidates and select carefully; ove

Sir: I am puzzled by the enthusiasm for post-A-level entry to university There would be little advantage

to students in terms of time saved during preparation for A-levels. They would not indeed have to apply to universities, but they would still need to do the research about institutions and courses, goto open days and talk to lecturers in order to make an informed choice about where to apply when they receive their results

Moreover, a considerable proportion of places would be filled before the A-level results came out

made pre-A-level, informal offers by the institution of their choice.

This is not to say that the present system works well, but there is a simple alternative; encourage students to take a year out and apply post-A-level. Applicants would then have their A-level results, and their preparation for examinations need not be interrupted by research about degree courses. In my experience, students who have had a year out come to university with a more mature and focused attitude to study. In addition, they could use a year out to save some money so that they graduated encumbered with fewer debts. Dr STEPHEN TAYLOR

Give time for abortion reform

Sir: Recent news stories - from the destruction of human embryos to the horrific examples of "selective termination" have reinforced the widespread belief that our abortion law must be changed.
But the will of the majority, in

the country and among MPs, will continue to be thwarted as long as the pro-abortionists in Parliament are allowed to exercise an effective veto on all attempts at reform. The key is the shortage of parliamentary time, which enables any private member's Bill to be "talked out" by even a handful of

Crown jewels

opponents.

David Steel's Abortion Bill was able to succeed in 1967 only because the then Labour administration made government time available for its passage. For governments thereafter to claim that they have remained neutral on abortion because they have allowed free votes on the issue, while at the same time they have consistently refused to provide government time for Bills seeking to modify the Act, has been dishonourable and Fr FRANCIS BROWN Kingston upon Hull. Humberside

A choice of identities

Sir: The Tories' huffing and puffing over what flags and symbols should or should not appear on the proposed identity card for British citizens ("UK flag row blocks ID card". 19 August) is what we have come to expect from them, rather than a simple solution.

As possession of the card is to be voluntary, presumably individuals will have to fill in an application form to acquire one. They could simply be asked to tick a box saving if they want the Union Flag depicted on it as well as the European Union symbol.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: lettersia independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

It would be hardly more complicated to let the Scots and Welsh have their own national flags on it if they want MARTYN LUMLEY Wallasey, Wirral

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Picking a chairman

Sir: Paul Donovan (article, 7 August) commented on the procedures used in the selection o Sir Frederick Crawford as chairman designate of the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

It is dismissive of Mr Donovan to state that "the Home Office boasted that the selection for this post was one of the first to be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life". Surely leadership in this area should be commended, not ridiculed.

As a result of the Nolan recommendations, I was appointed, in November 1995, as the first Independent Commissioner for Public Appointments to monitor, regulate and provide advice on departments' appointment procedures. I will also investigate written complaints about specific public appointments. In April this year I published a Code of Practice for Public Appointments Procedures and guidance for departments, both of which came into effect on 1 July. Many departments, including the Home Office, have been applying the

Code of Practice's seven principles (which include appointment on merit, independent scrutiny and openness and transparency) to their appointments procedures for some time, well in advance of the

MEATH

July deadline.

Amongst other things Paul
Donovan argued that the advertisement for the appointment which he was questioning, "was not widely published". The post was advertised in three newspapers and a firm of executive search consultants was also used. In addition, the list of volunteers held in the Public Appointments Unit was scrutinised. The result of these measures was a total of 124 candidates from whom Sir Frederick was chosen. Sir LEONARD PEACH Commissioner for Public Appointments

Irish minefield

Sir: I fully share your desire (leading article, 12 August) to sec Mr Major receive the reward that Gladstone and Lloyd George received for their efforts in Ireland.

The former saw the Whig and Radical wings of his party. including the dynamic Joseph Chamberlain, defect to the Tories in protest, leading to the effective exclusion of the Liberals from power for 20 years. The efforts of the latter, that culminated in partition, were a major contributing factor to the Tories ending their support for him. Both men thus faded from being major political players. STEPHEN MACE Sevenoaks,

Heroes of the French beaches

Sir: Royan, the west coast of France. Last week I was on the beach with my eight-year-old son. Jack, building sand castles. He had been running back and forth to the sea for water with his bucket and suddenly he disappeared. Since our arrival on the beach, crowds had descended. My son became disorientated and

When he didn't come back I went to took for him in the water as Jack is a keen swimmer. Although only 15 minutes had ticked by I was chilled with fear whilst feeling like an idiot. How could I lose my son who was virtually under my feet? My French "towel neighbours" urged me to inform the poste de secours (help point) which I did. This service is staffed by young men and women in their early twenties. They are a real Barmatch team. energetic, professional, and tanned. I found one member on the beach, armed with a lifejacket and floats, and he immediately sprang into action on his walkie talkie. Within minutes a public announcement was made on the beach that Jack was missing. Jack heard his name and knew that help was coming. He was then not afraid to be led away by an official (in swimming gear) when he was found. I am very grateful to that team. I explained to Messrs Baywaich that no such service existed in the UK and they replied that only Australia, the US and France now had such a facility. Following the tragic disappearance of the Loughlin

children on a beach in Norfolk and knowing of other sorts of emergencies that can arise when hundreds or thousands of people get together isn't it time the UK found its own Baywaich teams? LIZ LOUGHRAN London SE24

Graveyard for **Brent Spar**

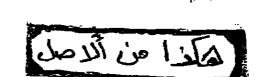
Sir: Your report (15 August) on disposal of the Brent Spar oil platform refers to the more outlandish proposals offered in response to Shell's trawl of ideas. Did none of the contenders suggest the cheapest solution: deep ocean sinking? Now that the hysteria which greeted the suggestion when it was originally put forward has faded, we can take a more rational

The essential point which was not made at the time is that the Western Approaches of the North Atlantic are a graveyard of millions of tons of ships lost through natural and unnatural causes. During 1942/43 alone about 12 million tons of merchant vessels were sunk along with a considerable number of naval ships, U-bouts and aircraft. As far as we can tell no one has suffered any subsequent barm, despite the fact that those ships carried practically every form of man-made substances and artefacts.

Pull the plug, note the Navsat readings, then forget it. GAHENWOOD Goring. Oxfordshire

Absent savant

Sir: Week 3. Day I of the DIY University and still no mention of Michel Foucault. What's going on? CHRIS MOORHOUSE Sheffield



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Everton out to repeat the magic

Football

Alex Ferguson and Kevin Keecan have had very different experiences in the past 10 days but both are equally desperate for three points tonight.

While Ferguson, the Chari-ty Shield already safely in the Old Trafford boardroom, sends his new-look Manchester United out in front of the Premiership's record crowd against Everton, Keegan's Newcastle must get back to basics when Wimbledon visit Tyneside.

The Dons were shot down in flames and style on Saturday, Eric Cantona, Denis Irwin and that David Beckham wondergoal giving United the perfect start to the defence of their crown.

being cut down to size by Joe Royle's pumped-up troops and Ferguson, who gives home debuts to Jordi Cruyff and Karel Poborsky, has no doubts the Merseysiders will be keen to silence the majority of the anticipated 55,000-plus crowd.

Poborsky, on the bench on Saturday, comes in on the right flank following Roy Keane's knee surgery, with Beckham partnering Nicky Butt in the middle.

Ferguson believes his dug-out view of the reality of the English game means the Czech Express Train" is both forewarned and forearmed. "Karel had a good look at Wimbledon on Saturday," said the United manager. "And it was an experience, I can tell you that.

"I think that Everton will also play the long bail. There's a little bit of Wimbledon about their style but they perhaps have one or two better foot-

As for his new boys, Ferguson, still without Ryan Giggs, said: They're both very good footballers. I just think they have just got to get used to our game. They understand that all

right but the most important thing is that they have the abil- manager confirmed the £7m ity to perform and do well on a stage like Old Trafford and at the highest level.

"Karel showed some nice touches in the friendly against Inter Milan last week and Jordi could quite easily have had a hat-trick against Wimble-

Everton, though, were boosted by the way they blew New-castle out of the picture on Saturday, and Joe Rovie will be looking to Duncan Ferguson and former United favourite posure on Saturday.

Andrei Kanchelskis to undermine the champions as they did

Royle is without skipper Dave Watson, who damaged medial ligaments against the Tynesiders, with Craig Short partnering David Unsworth in the middle of the back four.

A towering header by Ferguson beat United at Goodison two seasons ago, and with the Scotland manager, Craig Brown, due at Old Trafford before finalising his squad for next week's World Cup qualifier in Austria, the giant strik-er will be looking to repeat the

Certainly Everton's performance at the weekend has raised the belief in the Merseysiders' camp, as John Ebbrell, who along with midfield partner Joe Parkinson will provide a combative test for Butt and Beckham, admitted.

"I thought we played really well in the first half on Saturday, and looked comfortable in the second, and it was just the sort of start to the season we wanted," said the former England under-21 man.

The way we played on Saturday has given us a massive boost. Now we've already got a win it means we won't be under any pressure at Old Trafford. We know we can win there if we play as well as we did against

While United and Everton are both aiming to build on their brilliant starts, the sides they beat so comprehensively on Saturday have wounded pride to restore.

Keegan's judgement in splashing out so much for Alan Shearer without spending a penny on plugging the alarming leaks in his defence has been called into question after the Charity Shield and Goodison Park maulings.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla is back from suspension for Newcastle, and the Magpies' South American would play, although he did not indicate who would be left out.

Keith Gillespie, who made way after Asprilla's arrival from Parma last season, could be the odd man out again, assuming that Shearer and Les Ferdinand again start together.

More worrying than his side's display up front was the shoddiness they demonstrated as Ferguson's aerial threat severely disturbed their com-



Clark puts faith in new-look Campbell

Nottingham Forest take on the With newly promoted clubs, Manchester United, and that set Premiership new boys, Sunderland, today with their manager, Frank Clark, urging Kevin Campbell to show more of the

"real" thing.
Campbell doubled his Forest goal tally with his hat-trick against Coventry at Highfield Road last weekend after an injury-wrecked first season. Now with a North-east one-two at the City Ground in the space of three days - Middlesbrough are the visitors on Saturday -Clark is looking for the striker to continue his side's flying start. "That hat-trick will certainly have not done Kevin's confidence any harm - but he's not going to score three goals

every game," Clark said.
"He has got to keep working for the team the way he has been doing. He's done well right from pre-season and last Saturday was a big lift for him after the bad time he had last season. I am sure we will see the real Kevin Campbell this season, and he is looking the kind of striker I thought he would go on

to become when I signed him. "However, we have all got to make sure we don't throw away the work of Saturday when, apart from the result, the performance was also very good. Sunderland will be full of it.

you always find the enthusiasm and newness of being in the Premier League keeps them firing in the early part of the season."

Bryan Roy, another striker with plenty to prove after last season's disappointing form, is back in training after a hamstring injury ruled him out last Saturday. But he must wait to see whether he will earn a recall, and probably the best he can hope for is a place on the substitutes' bench against a Sunderland side likely to see Niall Quinn making his full

While Forest look to build on their opening-day triumph, the Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, is already aware of the danger of losing early touch with the cemakers. He is anxious for his side to quickly redress the balance when they entertain Blackburn Rovers today after the reversal against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsbrough. "Last season we were seldom beaten two matches in a row and nearly always bounced back from a defeat with a positive per-

"As a result, we managed to stay in touch at the top of the division nearly all the way through. Last season we got off to a great start with the win over an ankle injury.

us up for the remainder of the

Savo Milosevic, the Aston Villa striker, is again ruled out with an Achilles injury and has been ordered to rest this week. Julian Joachim is in contention for a place in the starting lineup after impressing as substitute against the Owls. He could partner Dwight Yorke up front, with Tommy Johnson reverting to his preferred deeper role behind the front two, from where he can run at defenders.

Rovers, still suffering from the dispiriting effects of Alan Shearer's £15m departure, could make changes after their opening-day defeat at the hands of

The Norwegian international Lars Bohinen has recovered from a hamstring injury, and the Scottish midfielder Billy McKinlay is free to play after suspension, though a leg strain might again rule him out.

Leicester City could recall the player who clinched their place back in the Premiership when they name their side for today's home encounter with an unchanged Southampton. Steve Claridge, who netted the playoff decider against Crystal Palace, is back in training after

Gullit plays it cool

Rund Gullit is doing his best to play down pre-match talk that Chelsea's game with Middles-brough tonight is a showdown between Pabrizio Ravanelli and

Gianluca Vialli. The two Italians, who helped Juventus win the European Cup, meet in a keenly anticipated head-to-head at Stamford Bridge, But Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, has emphasised that there will be 20 other players on the pitch.

He said: "Of course it is exciting for the fans to have players like these on the same pitch. But it is not just about one player, whether it is Ravanelli or Vialli. It is up to us to show our skills in stopping Ravanelli scoring." Ravanelli had a sensarional

debut, scoring a hat-trick against Liverpool, while Vialli got no closer than hitting the post in Chelsea's goalless draw at Southampton Gullit said: "We have to play better than we did on Sunday.

We have had a team meeting

where I told the players what I thought and they told me what they thought." Vialli admitted that he is still short of full match fitness but said: "I am looking forward to seeing Rayanelli and congratulating him on his hat-trick

- I just hope he doesn't do it

Stapleton sweats as Lalas leads counter-Revolution

United States

Frank Stapleton knew he was not first choice as coach of New England Revolution when he joined the Major Soccer League bandwagon at the start of the year - the Boston club wanted Jack Charlton - but he probably expected an easier ride.

As Revolution have struggled at the wrong end of the Eastern Conference, Stapleton has had flak for dropping a classy playmaker, Argentina's Alberto Naveda, and replacing him with a more defensive midfielder. Now the former Republic of Ireland centre-forward has come under fire from one of American

soccei's heroes: Alexi Lalas. Lalas, a veteran of the 1994 World Cup, left Revolution mid-season to play for his country at the Olympic Games. questioned his dedication to the club. This is a joke," Lalas stormed. "The an-

boggles my mind." However, Lalas should not assume that the club's supporters will take his side. Before he went to the Olympics, Revolution's excellent fanzine, Pictures of Chairman Mao, ran not one but two articles highly critical of Lales, claiming that he was in-terested only in promoting himself and not in the chib, "Even his rock band sucks." wrote one angry Bostonian...



AROUND THE WORLD

Scotland's John Collins. now with Monaco, was not the only British player to Now Stapleton has dropped him too, and move across the Channel during the summer, and two other emigres scored last This is a joke," Lalas stormed. The audacity of someone to question my com-land striker who helped Sunderland win the First Division last term, opened his account for Nancy, while Allan Johnston (wace of Hearts) was on target for Rennes.

Johnston has been joined at Rennes by another Scotsman, Gary Smith from Aberdeen, while Jamie Fullarton, an Under-21 cap, has distressed hard-up St Mirren by moving to Bastia for nothing Chris Makin, a highly rated England Under-21 full-back, was expected to move to a Premiership club for a big fee

June. Marseille had different ld however, and took him off to the soul of France on another "Bosman" free!

The Bosman effect is also being felt in Germany. Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern Munich president, described the first day of the new season as "the start of a new era - football without from flers as a result of the Bosman mining. On the first weekend of the But 16 goals were scored by foreign his while only 12 came from German.

The fact that the Bundeslow

The fact that the Buridesign up will also got a place in the d ions League next season won't at because we'll be champions attended. Beckenbauer added. Arrogant awesome might lead to efficient Kaizer being burned in Dortman

Leonardo Ricatti. gentinian striker, at the Italian Sorte Avellino, last week for a trial told to get his hair cut. He agreed - its long as he was offered a contract and the club paid for the visit to the barbers. The chub president, Antonso Sibilia, agreed.

Rupert Metcalf

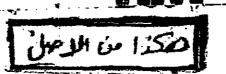
Today's hidden personality

The Tottenham and England winger Darren Anderton, who was denied the adulation of the nation by the width of a post during extra time of the Euro 96 semifinal against Germany. Rated at around £8m, his League appearances last season were severely restricted by a series of nigging injuries, but he impressed his former Spurs manager Terry Venables sufficiently during a late-season comeback to earn a place in the England squad. Widely regarded as the fulcrum around which the present Spurs side operates and the key to Tottenham's trophy ambitions.



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Derek Pringle looks forward to the final Test between England and Pakistan



Hamlet Cup

the leader page

*The first step towards a working constitution

Tew lists of "working peers" were announced yesterday – which lie to Bagehot's aphorism that the prompts an obvious question. If only a minority of members of the House of Lords work, what purpose do the rest serve? The simple answer is that non-working peers cling on in membership of this genteel club by the Thames because, despite recent spasms, we remain constitutionally inert, stuck in the aspic of tired tradition. Generations of political leaders take a bow Jim Callaghan, curtsy Lady Thatcher – have wilfully refused to confront the anomalies ... and with them the sheer inefficiency of our system of making law.

The new lists are, in part, predictable party pay-off - who said we do not operate a spoils system in this country? Still, some of the names glitter. Maurice Saatchi, whatever we may think of his contributions to the art of political advertising, is a man of wide experience and taste. Provided he can bring himself to throw off the shackles of party decorum, his contributions to debate on, say, arts funding will be worth listening to. Liz Symons, in charge of that most anomalous of trade unions, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, has made herself a monitor of fair practice in Whitehall. Sir Richard Rogers is more than a renowned architect; he has interesting views on urban form, the future of London and urban living generally. Per-

cure for admiring the House of Lords was to go and look at it.

But a few good names on party lists are no substitute for reform. The time has never been riper. If even the House of Windsor can muster a think-in on the shape of the monarchy as the century turns, then the political class of this country has no excuse finally to engage in the renewal and revitalisation of the institutions of governance. Reform of the Lords is not an act of vandalism or mindless "tinkering". The only object is to make malfunctioning, underperforming government work better.

There are three options. The first, outright abolition of the Lords, is made suspect by the way it would further concentrate political and legislative power in a single chamber, the record of which is so second-rate, as we have reported in recent days and months. Of course the House of Commons could be more fairly elected reflecting more proportionately the party and attitudinal make-up of electors. But to make it the sole carrier of collective will would remove an opportunity for revision, and reflection. of a kind that a second chamber could offer. Bicameral government is the norm in the Western world, for the good reason that good government is perceived to be second-thoughts government. Most jurisdictions attempt in



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tion of an upper chamber.

And if it is to stay as part of the legislative process it should be elected. The condition of modern democracy is a jealous one. If government is to be for the people and by the people, we cannot tolerate a second chamber based on the competing principles of

aristocracy or autocracy. The House of Lords is a weird and wonderful hybrid of blood, executive will and patronage - plus a smattering of merit and whatever it is that the bench of Anglican bishops now bring to the party. (Even the Tories, pretended keepers of the Constitution, find it hard to justify the present composition of the Lords. It comes close to the position of those members of the pre-1832 Commons who argued that the fate of England depended on the continuing election of members for Old Sarum - an uninhabited mound outside Salisbury.)

Election matters - which is why

Labour's short-term plan for the Lords is in many ways a worst-of-both-worlds solution: the chamber is retained as a part of the law-making procedure but remains unelected. Better by far to confront this choice: either emancipate the Lords from the formal business of law-making or else formalise the bicameral system and elect the members of the upper house.

A purely deliberative chamber - the third option - might, for example, have the right to call for papers and persons (as the parliamentary formula goes), even to have sight of proposals for law or the text of bills. Its findings would command attention because of their cogency and weight but it would have no formal share in making law. Such a chamber might well include the likes of Peter Gummer since, like it or not, PR people are now significant players. But it would need to draw on a pool of talent wider than party whips' wish lists. Its ranks would include rabbis and cardinals as well as bishops. company as well as permanent secre-

taries and, of course, more women. But, attractive though aspects of such a proposal sound, it runs secondbest to the creation in Britain of what exists in the United States as in Germany - a senate or legislative council. elected and possessing a plenitude of power but distinct from the house of representatives or national assembly below it. Elected for longer terms,

elected from the regions or elected on principles of proportionality, all its members would be "working peers" working at the business of collecting and spending the public's money, at making and monitoring the laws, at deliberating on the affairs and more accurately expressing the will of the peoples and nations of the United Kingdom than the present set-up possibly can. Let's hope yesterday's announcement is a weak but cheerful premonition of full-scale reform.

All the skills of a lawyer

The London School of Economics was L once the hotbed of socialism. It did of course also produce generations influenced rightwards by Robbins, Popper and von Hayek. Still, Sidney Webb will be spinning in his grave at the results of a survey out today. LSE is the preferred source of recruits to those most conservarive professions, banking and accountancy. According to the survey LSE now offers Oxbridge formidable competition in the attractiveness of its students to employers. Not that employers all make fine judgements. Law tirms want them to be clever, true, but "in law social skills don't matter". It doesn't take much confact with a solicitor to confirm the point.

Heroes of the

French beaches

Sir: Royan, the west coast of

France, Last week I was on the beach with my eight-year-old son, Jack, building sand castles. He

had been running back and forth

disappeared. Since our arrival on the beach, crowds had descended.

My son became disorientated and

When he didn't come back I

went to took for him in the water

as Jack is a keen swimmer.

Although only 15 minutes had

ticked by I was chilled with fear

whilst feeling like an idiot. Ho

French "towel neighbours" urged

me to inform the poste de secours

and women in their early twenties.

(help point) which I did. This

service is staffed by young men

They are a real Baywatch team.

energetic, professional, and tanned. I found one member on

and floats, and he immediately

sprang into action on his walkie

talkie. Within minutes a public

announcement was made on the

was coming. He was then not

team. I explained to Messrs

Baywatch that no such service

that only Australia, the US and

France now had such a facility.

disappearance of the Loughlin

Following the tragic

knowing of other sorts of

LIZ LOUGHRAN

beach that Jack was missing. Jack

heard his name and knew that help

afraid to be led away by an official

(in swimming gear) when he was

found. I am very grateful to that

existed in the UK and they replied

children on a heach in Norfolk and

emergencies that can arise when

hundreds or thousands of people

get together isn't it time the UK

ound its own Baywatch teams?

Graveyard for

Sir: Your report (15 August) on disposal of the Brent Spar oil

outlandish proposals offered in

response to Shell's trawl of ideas.

the cheapest solution: deep ocean sinking? Now that the hysteria

it was originally put forward has faded, we can take a more rational

The essential point which was

Western Approaches of the North

Atlantic are a graveyard of millions

of tons of ships lost through natural and unnatural causes. During

1942/43 alone about 12 million tons

of merchant vessels were sunk

despite the fact that those ships

carried practically every form of

Pull the plug, note the Navsat readings, then forget it.

man-made substances and

artefacts.

Goring, Oxfordshire

G A HĚNWOOD

not made at the time is that the

Did none of the contenders suggest

which greeted the suggestion when

platform refers to the more

Brent Spar

the beach, armed with a lifeiacket

could I lose my son who was

virtually under my feet? My

to the sea for water with his bucket and suddenly he

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

No apology for a summer of research

Sir: Your leader ("Lessons of the scramble for university places", 19 August) proposes one explanation for current admissions procedures: "It looks as though the nation's academics are reluctant to give up their research, trips to foreign universities or just their month in he Dordogne for the sake of ... a post A-level admissions system that will secure fairness and peace of mind for thousands of young people." I would like to offer a different perspective.

Our universities are built on the twin pillars of teaching and research. The range of courses, quality of tuition and educational opportunities provided by research-led universities depend crucially on the quality and diversity of lecturers' research. A research community which is able to recruit and retain the best educators, to offer the most innovative courses of study, to forge links with sister institutions around the world and to attract the cream of visiting professors, provides an unrivalled learning environment. I am not embarrassed to refuse to "give up my research", partly because that would be tantamount to giving up on my students, too. Research is what I am paid (not much) to do.

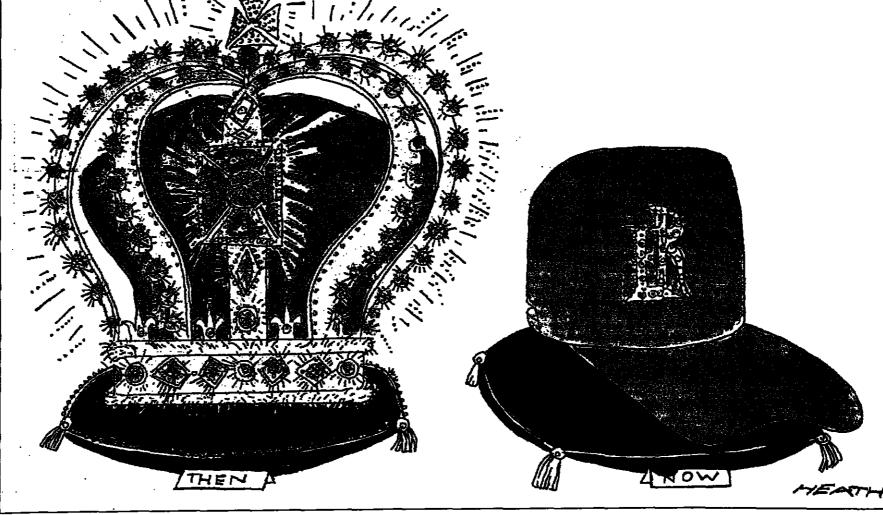
But my research is under threat. With deep cuts in government funding and declining staff/student ratios come extra teaching, extra exam setting and marking, additional pastoral responsibilities and more administration, to say nothing of our monstrously resource-intensive quality assessment procedures and the time and money we are now obliged to waste competing in the educational "marketplace". Research gets squeezed out to evenings and weekends. The summer recess (from the beginning of July, when examination boards are completed, to the start of September, when meetings resume) is now the only period in which conferences, networking with colleagues in institutions abroad and substantial research projects may be undertaken. A month in the Dordogne sounds very attractive, but I have only managed one, 10-day summer holiday in the last three years.
PAUL ROBERTS

Revolution

Law Department University of Nottingham

Sir: It was sad to see such a superficial analysis of the university admissions process in your leader. Much as I sympathise with the 40,000 candidates at present entering the uncertainty of the clearing system, I cannot see that any procedure requiring 400,000 candidates to be assessed and offered university places within a period of six weeks in August and September will improve the situation and "secure fairness and peace of mind for thousands of

young people' For all its faults our present system does ensure that over 85 per cent of candidates secure a place in a university of their choice in good time to organise their finances and accommodation; it enables students with special needs and disabilities to be assessed sympathetically; it allows overseas students time to secure visas and funding, above all, it fits candidates to courses which will suit them, producing a university student population with the lowest drop-out rate of anywhere in the world, which is the envy of all our competitors.



Crown jewels

We would all welcome a postqualification applications system nd I only wish it was as easy to implement as you suggest. All we asl in Cambridge is that the process gives us time to interview all our candidates and select carefully: over 60 per cent of all our candidates achieve at least three A grades at A-level, and assessment by A-level grades alone would be unacceptable both to the colleges and to most students and schools. Equally, medical schools and universities offering teacher training courses all require personal interviews.

We could, of course, go back to the post A-level system which Cambridge operated happily for many years. This, nowever, required all students to take a year off between school and university. Alternatively, we could look at introducing a four-term year into schools. This suggestion has been much welcomed by many educationalists and parents, and would enable the final school examinations to be taken earlier in the year without a significant loss of teaching time.

SUSAN STOBBS Pembroke College, Cambridge Sir: I am puzzled by the enthusiasm

for post-A-level entry to university There would be little advantage to students in terms of time saved during preparation for A-levels. They would not indeed have to apply to universities, but they would still need to do the research about institutions and courses, go to open days and talk to lecturers in order to make an informed choice about where to apply when they receive their results.

Moreover, a considerable proportion of places would be filled before the A-level results came out. More than 30 per cent of undergraduates are now mature students, most of whom do not take A-levels in the year of their application. To this group could be added applicants to Oxbridge, which would still continue to interview and make offers pre-A-level. It is clear that very soon pressure would build up, at least from the better candidates, to be made pre-A-level, informal offers

This is not to say that the present system works well, but there is a simple alternative: encourage students to take a year out and apply post-A-level. Applicants would then have their A-level results, and their preparation for examinations need not be interrupted by research about degree courses. In my experience, students who have had a year out come to university with a

by the institution of their choice.

more mature and focused attitude to study. In addition, they could use a year out to save some money so that they graduated encumbered with fewer debts. Dr STEPHEN TAYLOR Reading, Berkshire

Give time for abortion reform

Sir: Recent news stories - from the destruction of human embryos to the horrific examples of "selective termination" have reinforced the widespread belief that our abortion law must be changed.
But the will of the majority, in

the country and among MPs, will continue to be thwarted as long as Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

the pro-abortionists in Parliament are allowed to exercise an effective veto on all attempts at reform. The key is the shortage of parliamentary time, which enables any private member's Bill to be

"talked out" by even a handful of

opponents.
David Steel's Abortion Bill was able to succeed in 1967 only because the then Labour administration made government time available for its passage. For governments thereafter to claim that they have remained neutral on abortion because they have allowed free votes on the issue, while at the same time they have consistently refused to provide government time for Bills seeking to modify the Act, has been dishonourable and

Ft FRANCIS BROWN Kingston upon Hull, Humberside

A choice of identities

Sir: The Tories' huffing and puffing over what flags and symbols should or should not appear on the proposed identity card for British citizens ("UK flag row blocks ID card", 19 August) is what we have come to expect from them, rather than a simple solution. As possession of the card is to be

voluntary, presumably individuals will have to fill in an application form to acquire one. They could simply be asked to tick a box saying if they want the Union Flag depicted on it as well as the European Union symbol.

It would be hardly more complicated to let the Scots and Welsh have their own national flags on it if they want. MARTYN LUMLEY

Picking a chairman

Sir: Paul Donovan (article, 7 August) commented on the procedures used in the selection of Sir Frederick Crawford as chairman designate of the Criminal Cases Review Commission.
It is dismissive of Mr Donovan to

state that "the Home Office boasted that the selection for this post was one of the first to be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life". Surely leadership in this area should be commended, not richculed.

As a result of the Nolan recommendations, I was appointed, in November 1995, as the first Independent Commissioner for Public Appointments to monitor, regulate and provide advice on departments' appointment procedures. I will also investigate written complaints about specific public appointments. In April this ear I published a Code of Practice or Public Appointments Procedures and guidance for departments, both of which came into effect on 1 July. Many departments, including the Home Office, have been applying the

Code of Practice's seven principles (which include appointment on merit, independent scrutiny and openness and transparency) to their appointments procedures for some time, well in advance of the July deadline. Amongst other things Paul

Donovan argued that the advertisement for the appointment which he was questioning, "was not widely published". The post was advertised in three newspapers and a firm of executive search consultants was also used. In addition, the list of volunteers held in the Public Appointments Unit was scrutinised. The result of these measures was a total of 124 candidates from whom Sir

Frederick was chosen. Sir LEONARD PEACH Commissioner for Public Appointments London SWI

Irish minefield

Sir. I fully share your desire (leading article, 12 August) to see Mr Major receive the reward that Gladstone and Lloyd George received for their efforts in Ireland.

The former saw the Whig and Radical wings of his party. including the dynamic Joseph Chamberlain, defect to the Tories in protest, leading to the effective exclusion of the Liberals from power for 20 years. The efforts of the latter, that culminated in partition, were a major contributing factor to the Tories ending their support for him. Both men thus faded from being major political players.
STEPHEN MACE Sevenoaks.

along with a considerable number of naval ships, U-boats and aircraft. As far as we can tell no one has suffered any subsequent harm.

Absent savant

Sir: Week 3, Day 1 of the DIY University and still no mention of Michel Foucault. What's going on? CHRIS MOORHOUSE

Farewell to St Trinian's, goodbye to the GCSE

The English exam system has returned to its Eighties élitism. Now testing at 16 must stop, says Judith Judd

the General Certifi-Education is the exam that died. It died so quietly that nobody noticed. Its enemies moved in slowly, chipping away until they had finished it off and its supporters were too weary to resist. Around 600,000 students take it each year. They think the exam is still alive, but they are wrong. It is no longer the test they think it is and, for those at the bottom, it is a waste of time.

The story began in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher came to power and proposals were already in place from Shirley Williams, Labour's Secretary of State for Education, for a new common exam for all that would replace O-level and the Certificate of Secondary Education. Instinctively, the Conservatives were against it. They saw it as a plot by egalitarian teachers which would lower standards.

But the teachers persisted. They argued that the O-level, though valued by parents and employers, was a highly acade-mic exam designed only for the top 25 per cent of the ability range. CSEs for pupils of average ability were fine except that no one, including employers, thought they were worth much. For the bottom 40 per cent of children, there was nothing at all. The talents of thousands of children were gested, and the nation's eco-

Help came from an unexfor Education, arch free mar-Thatcher, was by nature an academic who liked to decide issues on their intellectual merit. Teachers persuaded him to back the GCSE. He demanded and received from civil servants and school inspec-



Ties that bind; but schools are not serving children as well as they could. The exams they set are only valuable for the brightest

and that, in some subjects at pupils' least, the brightest would take separate papers.

Tory suspicions remained. George Walden, former Conservative education minister pected quarter. Sir Keith "merging up or merging down". throughout a two-year course. Joseph, then Secretary of State Perhaps only Sir Keith could There were other differences have convinced them that it was keteer, friend of Margaret not the latter. He was, after all,

"one of us". sat the new exam. While ministers insisted that the standards of the old O-level would tors assurances that bright chil- jects, course work - done in tions. Wherever possible,

dren would still be stretched class or at home and marked by own teachers accounted for at least 25 per cent of the marks and in some subjects all the marks. Teachers said that this was a much fairer way of testing children's ability being wasted, teachers sug- and backbench MP, asked in and motivation. Those who did the Commons in 1984 whether well in short final exams might nomic prosperity was at stake. the new exam combining O- not necessarily do as well if they levels and CSEs, involved had to sustain the performance

too. In maths, modern languages and some science syllabuses, there were extra papers In 1988, the first candidates for the brightest children. In most subjects there were not. There were common papers and students' performance was be maintained, the exam itself to be determined by their was very different. In most sub- answers rather than the ques-

teachers were determined to results continued and so did the avoid dividing pupils into sheep and goats before they started their examination courses as they had done for O-level and CSE. That, they said, would limit ambition and aspiration. The public and employers had discounted those who took CSE. Teachers wanted all GCSE candidates to have the same chance.

Even before the first results were published, the exam came under attack from the rightwing media and Conservative MPs. Course work was seen as a cheats' charter. How could the exam boards be sure that it was the pupils' own work? How could they know that all teachers were operating the same standards? Sir Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP and former education minister, later remarked that GCSE marks were improving because the whole family now sat round the table and did the exam.

The common papers were also a target. Because they were taken by pupils of a very wide range of ability, the first few questions were often very easy. Newspapers mocked

When the first set of results came out in 1988, a higher proportion of children were getting grades A - C, the equivalent of the old O-level grades. Year by year, the improvement in

warfare between the teachers and backbench Conservatives. The former argued that the better results were due to increased motivation and harder work because more average children. Teachers pupils were worried about get-ting jobs. The latter said the exam and its marking were getting easier. They spoke of reports of pupils from fee-pay-

papers so that in a vast majority of subjects there would be levels for able and less able children. In some subjects, there would be three tiers - for the brightest, average and belowwould have to decide which tier or level of difficulty children should take in exactly the same way as they had decided who should take O-level and CSE. ing schools getting strings of A In some subjects, the decision

Teachers wanted to avoid dividing children into sheep and goats

grades and the perennial com- could be left until later in the plaints of employers that noone could spell or punctuate level days, but pupils who were any more.

Ministers were in a dilemma. They were desperate not to appear soft on standards but they could not abolish an exam that they had themselves so recently created. And to knock the achievements of 16-yearolds was politically crazy.

But, step by step, they began to dismantle the exam. In 1992, John Major announced that course work would be drastically reduced: in no subject would it account for all the marks and in most it would be only 20 per cent.

Behind the scenes, plans were set in motion to divide up high-fliers were already under

course than it had been in O-

entered for the lower tiers

would not be eligible for the

higher grades whatever their performance in the exams. To deal with the complaints that the exam was too easy for clever children, John Patten, who became Secretary of State for Education in 1992, introduced a new grade. The very brightest would be able to get not only an A but an A*. Ministers might argue that it was useful to pick out the top 2 per cent. Nobody agreed. Even the independent schools, some of whom had joined in the attack on GCSE, were horrified. Their

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

enough pressure, they said. They spoke of weeping pupils. distressed that they had scored

And if we were going to start exam was unnecessary. Even picking out groups of children, when it was introduced, it was why not pick out the ones at the bottom who needed special help. How about a starred G or needs when it is trying to a starred F? High-fliers, after encourage a higher proportion all, had always done well in the of its pupils to stay longer in English education system. Yet education and training. For every international study showed that it was the children at the bottom of the heap which English schools failed.

The reinvention of O-level proceeded apace, helped by the Government's performance tables of exams. These recorded school GCSE scores at all grades but the only ones that counted for most newspapers were the proportion awarded grades A - C. Employers, too, were sceptical about

any grade below C.

It was true that a higher proportion of children received top grades than in O-level days - 43.5 per cent with 5 A - Cs but that still left a lot of pupils firmly on the scrapheap.

Now, as the nation prepares to debate yet again whether exam standards at 16 are rising or falling, the English exam system is back where it was in the mid-Eighties: divisive, élitist catering well for those at the top and discounting those at the and it is time to bury the new bottom. Pupils are slotted one.

neatly into their allotted tier. League tables have enshrined the status of A - C grades. A few, much-criticised, vocational qualifications are finding their way into schools but, in status, they are no match for GCSE.

The reports on our pupils' poor performance in international comparative studies contime to come in. Research in maths performance by Newcastle University's Professor David Reynolds shows that, while we do well post-16, there is an alarmingly "long tail" of under-achievement before that. A report on international reading standards last week pointed to the English neglect of the same tail.

The original model of GCSE had its flaws. From the first some doubted, rightly, that it was possible to devise an exam for children of all abilities: 20 per cent fail to score even O, the bottom grade, in English and maths. Exams that were 100 per cent course work could never have been made credible to a sceptical public.

But the current model is worse. An academic exam_ut the end of compulsory schools ing which fails to give half its pupils either motivation or a qualification that really counts is no good.

The irony is that the GCSE already out of date. An exam at 16 is the last thing a nation pubils in America and most of Europe there is no important public exam at 16: the first big burdle comes at 18. In this country, for parents, employers and the general public the notion of a school-leaving certificate at 16 persists. We need to persuade the vast majority that secondary education goes from 11 to 18.

If pupils do leave school for work at the age of 16, the GCSE is of little use. What employers want to know is not whether school leavers have a grade E in geography or a D in drama but whether they can spell, punctuate and add up. A basic skills certificate would be a much more appropriate qualification.

Those at the top will simply go on to A-level and higher education and flourish as they have always done. For them, a string of A's at 16 is neither here nor there.

The old-style GCSE is dead

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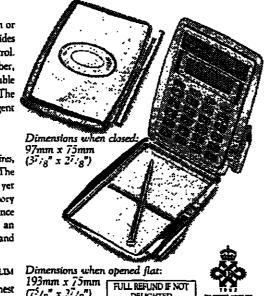
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The Fringe, as seen in black and white

wo weeks ago someone at The Independent gave as one of his golden rules on Fringe-going, Don't go to any student drama"

Thanks a lot, buddy. Ever since then I have been attacked by hordes of students asking me to justify my paper's stance, which of course I have not even tried to do. Student, amateur, hopeful, ambitious productions are the seedbed for the future, yet journalists who have just enjoyed a good (free) slick show at a popular venue will always write off the fringe of the Fringe.

It happened again in The Observer last Sunday when someone called Carol Sarier wrote a diary from Edinburgh saying that the only good things at the Fringe were at the three big venues. the Pleasance, Gilded Balloon and Assembly Rooms. Stick with them, and you'll be safe, she says. The artistic directors of these places know what they are doing and have already picked the best. "It is years now since I

have made an unfortunate mistake and ended up in a draughty church hall watching earnest, callow youths struggle with Ayckbourn." Well, bully for you, Carol

Sarler. Going out with someone with your sense of adventure and curiosity must be as exciting as going to Knightsbridge to do your shopping, or going on holiday in the Dordogne. Someone who thinks earnest, callow youths will opt for Ayckbourn, not Kafka or Camus, someone who thinks if a thing is not on at the Assembly Rooms it must be student drama, is not my idea of a trusty companion on the Fringe.

Actually, the main point of the Fringe is not for the pros to strut their stuff at the big three venues, but for new stuff to come up for air, whether experimental or traditional, at whatever address. Of the best shows I have seen so far, only one, the wonderfully inventive Let The Donkey Go, was at a big venue, the Pleasance. The others have all been on the periphery. In fact, one was in



Miles Kington

a shop. Valvona and Crolla is the best Italian food shop in Edinburgh, and every year one of the owners, Philip Contini, has teamed up with singer/storyteller Mike Maran and several musicians to do an hour's show at lunchtime in a tiny theatre space at the back. This year they have come up with an utterly engrossing and enchanting version of Carlo Levi's Christ Stopped at Eboli, which is the only show in town which gets the audience stomping along with Italian Fascist anthems from the Thirties.

I am not quite sure how a local jazz group gets to be part of the Fringe, but if the John Rae Collective had not

been listed as a Fringe attrac-tion at the Tron Cafe I would not have gone along on Monday to hear them, and to gasp at how good they are - especially, on the night, a guitarist with flying fingers, Kevin McKenzie, and pianist Brian Kelloch, who does frightening things to the keyboard.

And if I had not got chatting to a young American called Alex Carney at the Assembly Rooms, who was handing out leaflets for the show he had stage managed, I would not have gone along to the French Institute on a whim to see Slippery When Wei, a La Mama Theatre production. It was stunning. It is a piece written by the American writer Suzen Murakoshi, featuring just two wonderful actors, herself as a young Japanese American girl and Leland Gantt as the black American man who calls to take her out.

For an hour the air between them crackles with mistrust, and hostility, and mutual mockery, and sexual chemistry going wrong, and the sound of racial stereotypes melting and reforming, until you feel quite exhausted yet uplifted. She is happy to be American. He feels drawt to his roots. "Do you speak" Japanese?" he sneers. "Do you speak African?" she counters, and on it goes, the dance of love/hate. There is even an extraordinary nude scene, extraordinary not just because they both have enviable bodies, but because it was the only part of the pay where aggression gave way to a kind of tenderness, as if they had shed their attitudes with their clothes. The whole thing was

accompanied by a nearly-onstage musician. Fred Carl, whose myriad one-mun noises were as good as many a complex film score. The acting was wonderful, and even if some of the racial implications are lost on a Briton, I om grateful that I had the unaccountable good sense to go and see it. This is: its last week on the Fringe. Go and see it. Unless you are Carol Sarler, in which case you wouldn't bother. But I. guess that is no loss.

the commentators

Roses round the door – and blood on the doorstep

Clergy sent to run-down city centres are unprepared for the risks they and their families run

in a magical house within walking distance of central London. It had eight bedrooms, huge, high-ceilinged reception rooms, a spiral staircase, stained glass windows, a modern kitchen and a wonderful, enclosed garden with an Albertine rose climbing 30 feet up an old brick wall. We had

freehold rights to it, and it did not

cost us a penny.

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it was an Anglican vicarage located in the poorest ward of the poorest borough in Britain. Around this rather wonderful example of Victorian Gothic fantasy was a wasteland of council housing, a community which was disintegrating: wracked with crime, unemployment, poverty, alienation, and alcohol and drug abuse. There was a level of casual violence here that nothing had prepared me for. My husband, the vicar, went one day to make a visit related to a baptism and noticed a sawn-off shotgun lying on the table. The baby's mother told her man to put it away "because the vicar is here", so he pushed it under

We laughed. We went on laughing, in fact, for most of the time we lived there; there is not much else you can do, and anyway I loved it. It is only now, afterwards, living in

the country and reading about Christopher Gray and Anthony Couchman, inner-city clergy killed and wounded on the job, that I realise how frightened I ought to have been. For the vicar, for the children and for myself. I got shot at once, as a matter of fact, with a .22 rifle, through he win-

dow of my study. That was scary, but it was also arbitrary and pointless -the assailant was drug-freaked, and certainly without any personal malice. More frightening was the exper-ience of coming home to find a great deal of blood all over the front door steps, apparently flowing from under the door. It was not, in fact: there had been a knife fight on the doorstep. Or the time when it transpired, following a minor burglary, that both the children individually had encountered the thief on the

stairs, and said polite hellos to him: they were so used to strangers. (An interesting side-effect of their immersion in the local community was that when the police asked them to describe the intruder they both knew what he was wearing in some detail, but neither had noticed whether he was black or white.)

We went on believing in an "open house" policy, but over the years we became more cautious - or less committed; more aware - or less holy. Gradually we acquired basic precautions: a chain on the door, an insistence that the children use it, a burglar alarm, spikes on the garden wall, window grilles; though often it was our insurers growing reluctance, rather than our good sense, that dictated these developments. And none of these things would have protected anyone from the pan-icked ring on the bell at night; from the disconcerting realisation that the person you are giving a cup of tea to is simply insane; from the very angry, or the totally desperate.



SARA MAITLAND

We would have gone there anyway, I think, even if we had been better prepared. But the lack of warning and support seems, retrospectively, terrifying. The training my husband went through did not include self-preservation. We needed teaching, not just about physical danger but also about more delicate issues. No one ever spoke about what it meant for children to go to a primary school in which they would be the only child in socioeconomic groups A/B/C1/C2. When I asked my 15-year-old what was the best thing about his father not being

being the vicar's kid in school". The gentlemanly liberalism of the Church of England does not like to talk about class; but it matters, Our children were torn apart by divergent standards. We were once called to my daughter's secondary school by a perplexed headteacher. who had threatened all sorts of extreme horrors in punishment for some minor infringement, and then demanded that the perpetrators "own up". Middle-class ethics dictated that my daughter publicly confess, but refuse to name other names. The head said that no one had ever owned up like that, and she had committed herself to such severity only as a way of making clear to

ousness of the offence. Less amusingly, a primary school teacher once told us self-righteously. "I did not come to the East End to teach children like yours."

the undetectable offenders the seri-

Not many clergy have a back-ground that truly enables them to

realise what they are going to, linercity ministry carries kudos; it is also a recognised step on the ladder of promotion. The unfortunate sentimentality about "front-line heroes" does not help. There is a further problem with training clergy: although they acquire very few useful survival skills, they tend to acquire considerable arrogance; a failure to know what they do not know, and therefore to know when to seek help. No one, without proper psy-chiatric training, and within a pro-tective institution, should be "counselling" anyone at 1.30am; pro-

In any case, there really is no choice about being there. If the clergy believe they are there to embody Christ, then they will just have to push on with open-door, allhour, on-the-spot, high-contact, risky ministry. After all, He did.

I do not regret any of it. I miss it

sometimes. I learned a lot, It was

teeting, talking to, seeking support

for, calming down, perhaps - but

counselling ...

worth the risk - it was even worth the risk to the children. The roses were so beautiful, and the good bits - the warmth, the affection, even some of the high expectations and unearned respect - were very good indeed. After all, you can get killed and raped and maimed almost anywhere, but spiral staircases with moral kudos and a pension are hard to come by: I could not help but notice that

the Bishop of Barking, chair of a hishops' advisory group on urban priority areas, said that there was a "danger" that there might come a time when priests would have to leave the inner cities. That is the point of divergence; they can leave; the other victims of the violence bred of deprivation cannot. It is tragic when a priest is killed or mainted, but only because it is tragic that anyone is so killed or manned. If the Church of England - or any other Christian group - wants to protect clergy from these dangers, it should be more seriously engaged in ending endemic slum powerty m our inner cities, not in thinking about how to get out.

Curtain's up at the bawdy Globe

hakespeare's Globe reopens for business today, just 383 years after the original playhouse burnt down (when a cannon set fire to the thatch during a performance of Henry VIII). It ought to be an occasion for some straightforward celebrating - a few fireworks, and a fête or two - but these days our responses to large-scale cultural projects tend to be sour and a little suspicious. Bears have been expressed that le new Globe will be little more than a mock-Elizabethan theme park: Stratford-upon-Thames. it is hard not to tremble at the thought of all that yes-myliegery, all those buxom wenches in period bodices clutching baskets full of capons and flagons of rhenish, all those ghastly codpiece jokes for the tourists.

Actually, we probably shouldn't complain if these fears turn out to be well-founded. Even in Shakesneare's day the Globe was part of a south-of-the-river leisure complex, a 16th-century Disneyland where people went brothelising before the bear-baiting. Any historical enterprise is bound to risk seeming like an exercise in the most cartoonish sort of nostalgia. But the signs are that the Globe will not necessarily turn out like that. The artistic director, Mark Rylance, is a formidable and not remotely old-fashioned actor whose declared belief that Shakespeare was not actually the author of "the Shakespeare plays" is, however dotty, a useful sign that he does not regard the man as a sacred cow.

And the fact that he has chosen to open the new space with a performance of The Two Gentlemen of Verona - one of the most ham-fisted and least popular plays in the Collected Works - suggests that he will not be content simply to turn

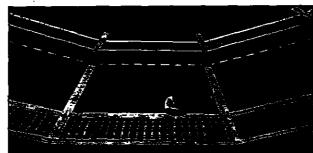
Robert Winder celebrates the return of Shakespeare's Wooden O

out decorous productions of the old favourites. There are, to be sure, moments in the Two Gents that sound like nothing so much as a parody of Shakespeare ("I am but a fool, look you, and yet I have the wit to think my master is a kind of a knave; but that's all one. If he be but one knave" etc, etc). But soliloquies that will sit much more comfortably in the uncontrived platform space than they do in a modern theatre.

There, as it were, is the rub.

happened to write plays. And his many self-conscious jokes about the stage were written with the Globe in mind. When Prospero drew down Tempest ("Our revels now are ended") he declared, famously, that the actors, the cloud-capp'd

itself" would dissolve into thin air. The very motto of the theatre - Totus mundus agit histrionem (literally: All the world plays the actor) - later



The desire to see Shakespeare's plays in their original setting is no more daft or reactionary than the desire to listen to classical music on authentic instruments. Indeed, it is possible that there would be more excitement over the reopening if it truly were an exhaustive, scholarly inquiry into the nature of the Shakespearean stage.

Even as it is, the character of the new-old theatre should refresh, rather than costumedramatise, our idea of what Shakespeare wrote. He was, after all, a playwright who

became the launching-pad for a meditation on life in As You Like It. The Globe was the world, and the world was a stage.

There are may more exam-

ples of this. When Rosencrantz admitted to Hamlet that yes, the vogue for children's theatre was sweeping all before it, "Hercules and his load too," the audience of the day could look up at the flag fluttering over the Globe, and see Hercules with the world on his back. Shakespeare even gave Henry V, possibly the first play to be performed in the Globe in 1599, a narrator to apologise for the lousy special-effects: "Can this cockpit hold the vasty fields of France? Or may we cram within this wooden O the very casques that did affright the air at Agincourt?"

That was a nice joke, but in the centuries that followed the wrote verse, not a poet who theatre world was invaded by a drive towards naturalism from which we have only recently recovered. Now that cinema and television have trounced the stage's ability to create the non-existent curtain on the believable sets, it is safe to revert to an undecorated, imaginary space - a playground for plays. The audience will be close to the actors; it will be able to hear and relish the words. So it is not so much that the space should suit the plays, that sitting in an Elizabethan setting should enhance our appreciation of the drama (though it might - there's nothing like a Greek amphitheatre for Greek tragedy), but that the plays should suit the space.

An exercise in nostalgia that wanted to go the whole hog would have to employ boy actors to play women, and speculate about Elizabethan pronunciation; both of which would seem like phoney postures. Nor is the Globe a precise reproduction. At one point it was discovered that the thick wooden pillars holding up the roof of the stage would block the sightlines from the audience, so they were replaced by inauthentic slimmer models. These may yet turn out to be a great loss. In Shakespeare's day, they were no doubt useful places for the actors to hide - perhaps Polonius was ducking behind one when he was stabbed through the arras by Hamlet, but

they are trifles, e'en so. The one significant period detail that might have been overlooked concerns the taking of drink. The Globe, like the other theaires of the day, was based on the architecture of an



inn: a central yard surrounded by balconies. Boozing was an important part of the experience, both for the groundling promenaders and for the socialites in the upper tiers. It was alcohol, as it happened, that saved the life of one plucky man caught in the fire that blitzed the original Globe.
"Nothing did perish but wood
and straw," Sir Henry Wotion
wrote to his nephew three days after the blaze. "Only one man had his breeches set on fire. that would perhaps have

broiled him, if he had not by the benefit of a provident wit put it out with bottled ale."

There will, no doubt, be a certain amount of cod-Shakespearcan waffle in the sandwich bars and cafes that will (it is hoped) spring up on Bankside Theatregoers can look forward to their Falstaff haps and Macbeth Special brew. But that need not prevent the theatre itself from staging vibrant productions of the plays, in which we can jest at sears that never felt a wound.

by contrast, it's usually a sin-

gle hero, acting alone, who tri-

umphs. This sort of analysis

can't go far - let the tape recorder run for several hours.

and a lot of the male/female

language differences disap-

pear - but something like an

early switch-setting seems sus-

sky's early work made racism

impossible. Black English had

long been insulted in the US

for being so crude as to actu-

Most importantly, Chom-

piciously involved.

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THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

el Brooks could just about accept that the adults he met in ack and white France could speak French maybe they went to night classes or something - but how could the little kids do it too? mand of a lange of the second It's certainly not because they were born with the knowledge. Take a newborn French child to Mel Brooks' New Photosphen, and the York apartment and in a few years it might well be familiar him gated the area. The wider rapid a gate the state of t with New York shuck, but it will know very little about cheeses, subjunctive variations Charles and proper it for aller, or the proper lip for-mation to produce that one sound all English speakers Mines to the Leefs of the dread, which on vacation we 4 years American race through elaborate con-AND LOSSY

tortions to avoid: the feared past participle of "to have": eu. Let the kid escape back to France though, and it'll end up speaking good French - albeit with a baffling insistence for le pastrami vous shmuck instead of Camembert - but even if you watch closely, even if you keep a video trained on it and transcribe every word it hears. you'll never find the moment when its parents sit it down and go through the Academie Française grammar books which explain, for every contingency, just where that English-humiliating eu is to be

dropped in. Irs not just busy French parents. Children never get a full grammar explained to

them. All they really hear are fragments: "Do this", "Try that". "Please don't dange Mommy's computer outside the window again." Yet with the exception of some future professional football players, they all end up speaking the full language, pretty much. The reason is that the sound

fragments don't just fall into a void. Many of the words the adults say, those anxious discussions about where exactly to buy this thing called "pastrami", will still whir past, unable to be recognised. But a few of the words are collected, slipping easily into an amazing con-traption we walk around with, loaded inside our head. A child's brain seems pre-

rigged to start re-arranging these first collected words, and send them back out as speech. But how can it possibly know which system of rearrangement will be best? This is where the parents' feedback comes in. A child in the French house will have heard hundreds of rushed phrases, and in most of them, whenever an adjective noun mix could be identified, the adjective was after the noun. The child will naturally try saying rouge after pyjamas when it points to that lattered red thing it's insisting on wearing again. An English immersed child

will do the reverse. If either of them gets it wrong the parents might offer



Language VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

A final examination will be set at the end of term. All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the Independent



a correction, but that's rarely necessary. Children are incredibly good at clicking the waiting brain switches into place - by the age of three their success rate is rarely under 93 per cent - and once the full panoply of adult switch-settings lock in, even greater feats can be performed. There are probably over 8,000 sentences in today's paper, and even ones you've never read before, ones that engage in cheap tricks such as referring back to Mel's quest for the pastrami-hungering adoptee to guarantee their uniqueness, are easily enough comprehended by the parsing. sorting and analysing system built up from this implanted

language potential.
Philosophers had long argued about innate ideas, hul the details of this waiting switching system was only first brought out by Noam Chomsky, starting in the 1950s. It made him a star. The old-style lab psychologists, with their simple rat-and-maze models of behaviour, were wiped from the field. (How could they possibly encompass subjects able to generate an infinite number of fresh sentences?)

Sociolinguists loved the enhanced view of human motivation. When women spontaneously tell stories about themselves, for example, they often describe group action as

ally use double negatives - as in Mohammed Ali's explanation to the chiding air hostess, "Superman don't need no seat-belt". (To which she famously replied, reaching forward to buckle him anyway, Sure, honey chile, but Superman don't need no airplane.")

Transferred into French though the negative would be perfectly allowable, simply heing the ne ... pas construction for negative concord. And all three languages would seem crude compared to the Kivunjo spoken in one part of Tanzania, with its 14 tenses and seven prefixes, and suffixes, which its native speakers click into without problem just as Mr Brooks would too. if he had been deposited there young enough for his language switches to be set in Kivunjo

mode. Tomorrow: Economics

The great task of Mervyn Cowie's life was the pioneering of wildlife protection and the development of tourism throughout East Africa.

Cowie was one of only a few who had the vision to realise that the animals' saviour was going to be the tourist. Only tourism could attract the sort of revenues needed to establish parks and all the elaborate infrastructure necessary to make them a success. Many millions would be required - but even more millions would be earned, virtually all of it in foreign cur-

Cowie was born in British East Africa in 1909, his father having resigned as Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg in order to settle in Kenya. His mother was the archetypal colonial wife: dauntless, indomitable, fiercely determined in the overcoming of every obstacle and difficulty of living in raw Africa and raising two sons. Cowie loved to narrate the

tale of his parents entertaining some important government guests to dinner. The meal was to begin with soup and croûton, all carefully prepared under the supervision of his mother. When the soup arrived it was almost consommé-like and devoid of any crouton. After the guests had gone Mpishi, the cook, was asked why he had removed the crouton to which he replied that memsahib had left all these things floating in the bowl and he thought they should not be there. She enquired as to how they had been removed and was informed that one of bwana's socks had made an excellent sieve; then, seeing the look of horror on her face, he hastily added that she need not worry, it was not a clean one!

Cowie was educated initially in Nairobi before going "home" (as Britain was referred to by the colonials) to study at Brighton College and Oxford. He returned to Kenya in 1932 after qualifying as a chartered accountant. Almost immediately he became alarmed by the very obvious depletion of wildlife since his departure, which was the result principally of a total lack of any governmental policies on conservation.

Between 1932 and the start of the Second World War Cowie served as a district councillor in Nairobi, trained with the King's African Rifles as a reserve, and above all, campaigned tireless-ly and with missionary zeal towards his great vision of a se-ries of National Parks and an Uganda and Tanganyika, to sit July 1996.

efficiently run system for game conservation.

Frustrated by unshakeable government lethargy, he embarked upon a ploy of anonymously advocating, via the press, a policy for the destruction of all wildlife in East Africa with a view to enhancing agriculture. His ruse worked: the government was so startled by public reaction to such an outrageous suggestion it was forced to do something. This consisted simply of forming a committee to examine the matter, but a start had been made.

Nairobi Park, the first in Kenya, was opened in 1946, with Cowie as Executive Director. Gradually he opened a whole series of parks throughout East Africa, later to be exalted to the



title of Royal National Parks. These included the famous Tree-Tops, where Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were staying in 1952 when she learnt of her accession to the throne, Cowie was tasked with protecting the royal party from wild animals during their stay. There was a bull elephant lurking in the trees nearby and the problem was how to shoo him away. Ever resourceful, Cowie, who could charm birds from the trees, found the solution. Approaching the bull carefully, keeping out of sight and down-wind, he selected a large pebble, rubbed it vigorously under his armoit and then hurled it past the animal and upwind of it. Hearing the thud as the stone dropped, the elephant turned in that direction, picked

desired direction. Despite his tireless and often konely and frustrating efforts to Association 1950-65; CBE further the animals interests, 1960; married 1934 Molly Beaty Cowie nevertheless found time to assist and advise-on the

up Cowie's aroma and imme-

diately charged, happily in the

on the Kenya Legislative Coun-cil (as his father had done) for 10 years, to run the demanding office of Director of Manpow er during the Mau-Mau emer-gency in 1953, to co-found the Kenya Wildlife Society, act as East African representative for the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme, organise and manage extensive anti-poaching operations and of course travel extensively world-wide.

Cowie published three books on his life's burning passion, Fly Vulture (1961), I Walk with Lions (1964), and African Lion (1965). The popular film, Where No Vultures Fly (1951), was a dramatised story of his work.

Not shown in that film was a curious adventure which befell him once whilst visiting one of his park out-stations in a light airciast. Landing on a rough and dusty strip cut from the surrounding bush, Cowie, as he slowed to a halt, was horrified to see a rhino charging straight towards him. Then followed a pure Keystone Kops sequence as he was chased in his aeroplane by the rhino, twisting and turning desperately as he tried to dodge the creature whilst endeavouring to get to the end of the strip so that he could take off again. In 1963 Kenya became inde-

pendent; three years later Cowie resigned from the Parks. By 1970 he was established as a Senior Consultant to the World Wildlife Fund, spending much of his time in London, where he was particularly in-volved with fund-raising. He found that to be disagreeable and in 1972 he joined the African Medical and Research Foundation in Nairobi, the flying doctor service, as their financial director, a post which he held for seven years.

In time Kikenni, the house which Cowie's father had built in 1926, was sold, and he and his second wife Val returned to Britain. His latter days were much devoted to the writing of his last book which, sadly, he did not live to see published.

Francis Chamberlain Mervyn Hugh Cowie, conservationist: born Nairobi, Kenya 13 April 1909; Founder and Director, Royal National Parks of Kenya 1946-66; Vice-President, East African Tourist Travel (died 1956: two sons, one daughier), 1957 Valori Hare Duke



Jim Nicholson

The National Trust for Scotland, during a time of burgeoning expansion in the 1960s and 1970s, was fortunate in bringing together a number of very different, but idealistic men and women, devoted not only to the built heritage of Scotland but to landscape and countryside. Prominent among them was Jim Nicholson, the trust's first Art Designer, for whom the post of Art Director was later specially created.

Nicholson was in his own right a landscape painter of distinction. This year's National Trust for Scotland Edinburgh Festival exhibition contains some of Nicholson's pictures. His watercolours in particular of the St Kilda archipelago to which he devoted so much of his energy and Inverewe Gardens, a National Trust property on the west coast, are quite simply beautiful.

The National Trust for Scotland was founded in 1931, 35 years after its English counterpart. Besides managing 18 major houses, it is the fourth largest landowner - after the Forestry Commission, the Duke

A beauty and a wit, Joyce Buck

was a prominent member of the

film and American communities

in London from the 1950s to the

early 1980s. Her husband, the

producer Jules Buck, had

founded Keep Films with Peter

O'Toole in 1958 and for the next

In 1980 she and her husband

returned to Los Angeles, where

she worked as an interior de-

signer on the houses of Sam Jaf-

fee, Ralph Edwards (of This is

Your Life), Coral Browne and

Vincent Price, Jane Wyatt and

Born Joyce Kuth Getz, she

who went on to become a suc-

cessful cover girl and then, at 18,

a contract artist in Hollywood.

Here, almost at once, she met

and married Captain Jules

Buck, a rising young executive

at Fox, one of the founders

(along with Sam Spiegel and John Huston) of Horizon Pic-

tures and at that time - 1945 -

emerging from a hair-raising and hilarious war as a film-

cameraman, ("D'you think we should be behind enemy

lines?"). Joyce stopped perfor-

ming and from then on her mar-

riage to Jules was paramount.

A committed American (es-

pecially during her long period

in Europe), she and her hus-

band were among the first to

sense that the emphasis in the

film business was moving away from the big studios, and in 1952

they left for Paris (where Jules and Jacques Tati formed a part-

nership). Joyce first learnt flu-

Mrs William Wyler.

on end

ocrats Abroad

of Buccleuch and the Scottish Office - in Scotland. Nicholson was responsible for the pro-duction of all its booklets. guidebooks, publicity leaflets and advertising.

Sir Jamie Stormonth Darling the trust's long-term Director, describes Nicholson as "the best art director the National Trust for Scotland could ever have found - not only in his own work, but in his leadership and guidance of his team, which because of his excellence expanded to six. The whole standard of National Trust productions and publications roseto great heights under him."
"He got the best out of peo-

ple," said Mrs Vivien Bremner, a member of his staff. At the same time he was a perfectionist and anything that was simply out of tune would be required to be done and quite often done yet

Jim Nicholson was born in Otley, Yorkshire, where his father was branch manager of a bank and his mother, a Graham, was of Scottish descent. After attending Prince Henry's Gram-

mar School in Otley, he suc-

cumbed to parental pressure to go into the bank - and loathed it. At 17 in 1941, he was aimost thankful to be called up and trained to become a pilot officer in Bomber Command.

As a 20-year-old, he was in a Lancaster Bomber as radio op-erator over Dresden. My first serious conversation with him was shortly after he had joined the National Trust staff, about St Valentine's Day 1965. After we had done our business, prompted by the fact that I was a young MP and German rearmament was one of the great concerns of the day for my party, out of the blue Nicholson said: "20 years ago last night, I was bombing Dresden!"

For a man who loved beautiful things, of course, the destruction of the Baroque city and the Frauenkirche was a catastrophe. But what really moved him was the massive slaughter - and not only of German civilians. He told me that he felt guilty - irrational though it may have been - that so many of his contemporaries in bomber crews, lads little different from him, would never

Joyce Buck

return home. Later, he thought the denigration in some quarters of "Bomber" Harris was uncalled for, but that the real lesson was for political leaders to avoid war in the first place because not only nuclear weapons but all modern war can be unutterably dreadful".

The experience of Dresden gave him, though he would have been too embarrassed to make a point of it, other than in private conversation, a desire for service to other people. In 1945, he returned to the

bank and attended evening classes at Leeds School of Art. Soon he realised that banking was not his metier and joined a Leeds advertising agency as a graphic artist. On promotion, and coming to Edinburgh in 1955 to work with McCallum Advertising, after nine years he persuaded the National Trust for Scotland that they needed an artist designer - which they

certainly did. Nicholson contributed to the artistic life of Scotland and for several years in the early 1960s he had his own country dance band which was in great demand

and made gramophone recents. Music was a great passion and as his friend Allan Farquharson said at his memorial service: Over the years he developed what he casually called his 'slide-shows'. These were the marriage of his wonderful photography with perfectly matched music, and I am sure that many people were en-tranced by these audio-visual productions. No one can have had any idea of the hundreds of hours of work he put in the make the perfect combination. He went all over the country giving these shows, at no charge, to audiences from small women's guilds to the Usher Hall, the great concert hall in

Edinburgh Jim Nicholson was a superb ambassador - at large - for the cause of the National Trust for

Tam Dalyell

James Hugh Nicholson, graphic designer and artist: born Oiles, Yorkshire 21 December 1924; Art Designer and Art Director, National Trust for Scotland 1964 83; died Edinburgh 25 July 1996.

Dr Zoheir Khayat

Three times he built up a splenit was overcome by revolution.

He was an extraordinary doctor who, from the mid-1950s, was driven from one Middle Eastern country to another. and ended up ministering to the sick in Beirut throughout the civil war at the cost of all his possessions and great personal

danger. His father had left Aleppo in Svria in 1897 in search of adventure and trade, taking the well-known silk route down to the Red Sea. He found a great deal of both in the Sudan. There he survived persecution by the Muslim leader, the Mahdi, but succeeded in becoming his advisor, briefly settling there long enough to meet Zoheir's mother Nozha, a woman of Turkish and Assyrian descent whom he married in 1909.

Zoheir, who was one of seven sons. was born in Omdurman in 1911. The family moved up to Cairo, where Zoheir was educated as a Roman Catholic. In 1931, accompanied by his twin brother, Sabry, Zoheir left Cairo for France to read Medicine. The completion of his dein Paris and Montpelier until and begin building up a private practice. In 1948, following a chance encounter, he met Claire Cassab, and they married shortly afterwards, a day after

his birthday, on 1 August 1948. heir Khayat had a happy fami-

In Greek legend Sisyphus was end to all his ambitions. He condemned forever to push a faced threats to his property, his great rock up a hill. Each time religion and his liberty. Nasser's new regime hit the Christian again to the bottom. This was and Jewish communities hard. the story of Dr Zoheir Khayat. Khayat's position as physician to King Farouk and the Jewish did medical practice; each time community made him particularly vulnerable.

In September 1961, fearing for his family's safety and his children's future, he drove them across the Western Desert and over the Libvan border. There he once again established himself as a leader of his profession, as physician to King Idris and

After five years he felt again the rumblings of revolution. Following several humiliating experiences in the hands of the increasingly influential revolutionary factions of the army, he decided to abandon his career in Libya. His two sons, Georges and Antoine, were already at school in Switzerland, and he and Claire followed them there. But he needed a Swiss Diploma of Medicine to be allowed

to practice. As a result of a family friendship with the British Ambassador in Benghazi, the boys moved to a new school in England, Ratcliffe College in Leicester. Then, thanks to a chance encounter at his sons' school, Khayat was persuaded by a fellow parent on the Board gree and thesis kept him busy of the Save the Children Fund in Paris and Montpelier until to go to Algeria and head a 1938, when he returned to medical mission to care for Egypt to settle with his family some 30,000 tuberculosis victims, east of Laghouat, some 450km south of Algiers. After 18 months he badly damaged his back moving equipment and was no longer able to carry on.

He and his wife decided to go By the age of 45, in Cairo, Zo- to Beirut, at that stage the most civilised, the most prosperous ly and an enviable first-class and by far the most pleasant city practice among the elite of the in the Levant. There for the next old Establishment and the 10 years Khayat once again Court itself. The advent of created a successful practice. Nasser in the early 1950s put an But underneath the prosperity



of Beirut, the conflict between

different races, different cul-tures and different religions was gradually increasing. In 1975 it exploded into open and violent civil war.

Khayat felt it was his duty to remain in Beirut where the need for him was greatest. Each year he and his wife would travel to England for a brief hol-iday. Each year against all persussion from their friends they would return to his patients, to their shattered flat, the shellfire and the bloody fighting in the streets. They faced this life of sacrifice in the belief that their friends, neighbours and patients needed his skills as a physician to surmount the trials and atrocities of such a bru-

tal and cruel civil war. Finally, some 10 years ago. when Khayat had reached the age of 77, they came back to London Separation from their two sons had in no way weakened but rather strengthened family ties, while adding to parental pride was the sons' success -Georges as a doctor, and Antoine in banking and finance.

Ivor J. Crosthwaite Zohetr Georges Khayaı, physician: born Omdurman, Sudan 31 July 1911; married 1948 Claire Cassab (two sons); died Ipswich, Suffolk 22 July 1996.

ent French and then embraced French cultural life.

in 1957 where our two lives merged; first because of business, but very rapidly we formed an enduring friendship. We were together on a daily 20 years produced all O'Toole's basis for some 20 years and

projects except for Lawrence of shared many highs and lows, though not once do I recall Joyce was a prime mover in Joyce Buck recounting her and became the co-chairman any misfortune. Self-absorption (with Toby Hyde) for the Mc- and whingeing were not her Govern and Carter campaigns, on both occasions turning her style and from her, an American, I learnt to keep a stiff upper lip and to apply more liphouse into an office for months stick in times of trouble.

Joyce Buck was an experienced and gifted interior designer and she took me under her wing when I (hitherto a gypsy) embarked on the task of making a home for my growing family in London. She could have gone to work and in six months delivered a ravishing was a child actress in New York house; instead, she walked me through museums (to see the best), through dirty basements. cluttered back rooms and flea markets (to find the affordable) and I learnt patience as she took me to obscure craftsmen "fixing" things in parts of London I

didn't know existed. Her method of teaching was subtle and tactful and she happily released me into a pleasurable lifetime of working alone. But I could never match her eye for beauty or a bargain.

She also taught me to dress. She had a seemingly effortless perfection of appearance (she and Coral Browne were the most exclusively shod women I ever met). She instinctively knew how things ought to be as she gamely took on London, life and manners.

I don't recall which, but she

was either my best man or she gave me away at my wedding to O'Toole in Dublin. The wedding



Buck: she instinctively knew how things ought to be

party acquired poets, singers, actors, a politician or two and considerable riff-raff as it wound its way through the Dublin night.

At five in the morning, in a room the like of which she could never have seen before (different wallpaper on each wall, stars on the ceiling and alarming linoleum on the floor, an unknown child asleep in an arm-chair), she found herself seated at a table groaning under Guinness bottles. Harry Brogan - a wonderful Abbey actor

who'd taken quite a shine to Joyce - shouted to her over yet another spirited rendering of "The Holy Ground", "Did you ever read Funegan's Wake?"
"No," she replied, taking a dainty sip of Guinness from a bottle and bestowing on him an

enslaving smile, "but I rather feel I'm in it."

We once landed in a clearing in a jungle with a mountain of Gucci luggage. She realised that we had misjudged the situation and sent the luggage back to the city, retaining only essentials. Which was how, once filming was over, she waved me off to an uncertain fate - "it'll be such an adventure, I wish I could come" - in which I was one of the few people to attempt the source of the Orinoco in an Yves St Laurent safari suit She taught me to be game for anything while staying as

gussied up as possible. When our paths diverged and she returned to America, I appreciated with relief that to Mo Emerson was right when he said 1996.

"The best effect of a fine person is felt long after we have left their presence."

Sian Phillips

Joyce Buck was always beautiful, intelligent, generous, writes Lauren Bacall. She had grace, integrity, a great gift for friendship and, to top it off, wit. We were friends for more

than 50 years. I remember, as we waited in the wings of the Lyccum

Theatre to audition for a play called Franklin Street (by Ruth and Gus Goetz), looking at this girl - Joyce Gates (her stage name) - hoping we would not read for the same part as she, with her beauty, was sure to get it. As it happened we were both cast in the play, which was directed by George S. Kaufman We were 17 years old.

Through a stroke of luck we ended up in California at roughly the same time and it was there that our friendship solidified. Two aspiring actresses, me under contract to Howard Hawks, Joyce beginning to make inroads of her own. On one occasion she accompanied me on a drive up Bogie's street off Sun-set Boulevard to see if the lights were on in his house. This was followed by collapsing in hysterical laughter - as only 18-

year-old girls can. When I went to London to work and live for a year, it was Joyce who found me a house and showed me her antique haunts with which to furnish my home. She had charmed London as she did California - no one ever knew Joyce without becoming devoted to her.

Joyce Ruth Getz, actress and interior designer: born Clucago 17 April 1925; married 1945 Jules Buck (one daughter); died Santa Monica, California 13 Juli

Rabbi Hugo Gryn

Rabbi Hugo Gryn had the gift of humorous encapsulation, something which could be very funny indeed while carrying a lit-tle reminder of the valley of the shadow through which he had walked, writes Edward Pearce [further to the obituary by Albert H. Friedlander on 20 August].

He would tell the story of the

chicken and the pig who es-

caped from a farm in the west-

em Ukraine. They came to a village stricken by famine. "Listen" said the chicken (most of Hugo's stories had someone saying "Listen").
"Listen. Between us we could

keep these people in ham and eggs for a week." Be quiet will you" said the pig. "For you that would be the big gesture. For me it would be

a total sacrifice."

No one who worked with Hugo will forget the jokes, the hospitality and the generosity of spirit. He seemed in religion to be pre-eminently liberal, outgoing and inclusive asking nonreligious Jews only to touch base

without inquisition as to faith. He was particularly fond of a circle of Anglican, Catholic, non-Conformist, and characteristically, Muslim friends.

land as a young man and said that on entering Cambridge was asked where he came from; he replied in a Glasgow accent "Czechoslovakja"

community of Free Presbyterians who detained him for a week, delighted to entertain a rabbi and have their biblical He-known will ever forget.

He had spent time in Scot- brew improved from the horse's mouth. But Hugo was that sort of horse.

Touched at different points in his life by Czechoslovakia, Scotland, Cambridge, the American As a young rabbi he was south, India, metropolitan Lonseized upon in Scotland by a don and the Auschwitz which he remembered every day of his life, he was a dear and delightful man whom no one having

BIRTHS

HARMER: On 9 August 1996, to Sarah and Roger, a son, Joseph Benjamin, a brother for Rebcoca and Elizabeth. ZUCKER: On 15 August 1996, to Alison (née Reuben) and David, a daughter, Naomi Sadie.

DEATHS

MADDRELL: Barbara, photographer, peacefully, in York, on 18 August 1996, aged 91. Widow of Hugh (died 1969). Cremation on Friday 23 August at 3.30pm. Enquiries to J.G.

Births. & Deaths

Fielder & Son, telephone 01904 PEAKE: John, on Monday 19 August. Forever loved by Margaret, Tim and James. Service at Woking Cremato-

rium on Thesday 27 August at 11am.

No flowers but donations to the Sam Beare Ward Fund, Weybridge Hospital would be welcome, c/o Woking Funeral Service, 119-121 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, in Memorian) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2018, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays Princess Margaret, 66; Mr John

Austin-Walker MR, 52; Dame Janet Baker, mezzo-soprano, 63; Mr Christopher Brasher, athlete and newspaper columnist, 68; Mr Don-ald Dewar MP, 59; Sir Ronald Garrick, managing director and chief executive, the Weir Group, 56; Miss Anne Hobbs, tennis player, 37; Sir James Hobman, High Court judge, 49; The Hon Gerald Lascelles, president, British Racing Drivers' Clob, 72; Dr Thomas McLean, former director,

Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, 66; Mr John Maddison, film and television technologist, 88; Mr Barry Norman, broadcaster, 63; Mr James Pawsey MP, 63: Mr Kenny Rogers, country and western singer, 55; Mr Peter Thurnham MP, 58; Lt-

man Usher to the Queen, 68. Anniversaries

Gen Sir Richard Vickers, a Gentle-

Births: St Francis de Sales, bishop, 1567; William Murdock, inventor, 1754; Asher Brown Durand, painter

and engraver, 1796; Jules Michelet, historian, 1798; Gustave-Adolphe Film, physicist and meteorologist, 1815; Otto Goldschmidt, pianist and composer, 1829; Roark Whitney Wickliffe Bradford, novelist, 1896; William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and bandleader, 1904. Deaths: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, author, 1762; Sir Aston Webb, architect, 1930; Leonard Constant Lambert, composer, 1951; Sir Jacob Epstein, sculptor, 1959; Benigno Aquino, Philippine politician, assassinated, 1983. On this day: Wellington de-

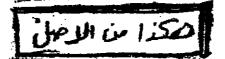
feated the French forces under General Junot at the Battle of Vimiero, 1808; the Mona Lisa painting was stolen from the Louvre, 1911; the London dock strike ended, 1923; Civil Defence was started in Britain, 1939; the Dumbarton Oaks conference started, 1944; Hawaii became the 50th of the United States, 1959. Today is the Feast Day of St Abraham of Smolensk, Saints Bonosus and Maximian, Saints Luxorius, Cisclius and Camerinus, St Pius X, pope and

St Sidonius Apollinaris.

Lectures

National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis, "Horses (iii): Van Dyck, Equistrian Portrait of Charles I', 1pm. National Portrait Gallery (guided tour): "The Performing Arts: portraits of actors and musicians 1500-1837", 2.30pm.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavairy Manuated Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ilam.



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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098 Shares soar as lenders signal house market boom

NIC CICUTTI

and TOM STEVENSON

Share prices soared to yet another record high yesterday, buoyed by further evidence of a pick-up in the housing market and good news from the high street and a strong oil

By close of trade yesterday, the FT-SE 100 index closed 19.5 points higher at 3883.2, a rise of 0.5 per cent.

Traders said the increase was based on high hopes for a continuing housing market

Their views were bolstered

yesterday by the regular a year ago. Other housing marmonthly survey from the Build-ket indicators are look promising Societies Association, which showed that net mortgage lending in July was £1.2bn, some 7 per cent high-

er than the previous month. Even more significantly, new mortgage commitments, the number of loans which societies expect to make in about two months' time, were 53,000, the highest since March 1994 and

vances 68 per cent higher than

crease in activity." O per cent up on a year ago. of a potential slowdown in the Ron Armstrong, deputy di-rector general at the BSA, said: "Comparisons with 1995 are encouraging with net ad-

Analysis were also encouraged by figures showing that M4 - the broad measure of

run-up to the general election

and coins in circulation, pering for future growth in the sonal and commercial bank market. Transactions have deposits - slowed to 8.8 per been increasing and house prices are also rising."

Jonathan Loynes, UK econ-omist at HSBC Greenwell, cent in the year to June, according to the Bank of England. Seasonally adjusted M4 grew 0.4 per cent in July from said: "The underlying trend is June, down from 0.7 per cent

clearly upward. The next few months should see a strong ining societies continued to in-But Mr Loynes also warned

The slowdown in money supply growth from annual rates of 10 per cent in May and Time per cent in May and June brought the figure back within the government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range for the

Satellite plans: Talks with promoter under way as broadcaster reveals record profits on £1bn revenue

money supply, including notes first time since last November However, the British Bankers Association said there was a £539m increase in consumer credit in July, while lending by major banks over-all rose £2.67m in July

Andrew Cases, an economist at UBS, the Societies an economist at UBS, the Societies an economist at UBS, the Societies and building societies continued to increase.

Andrew Cases, an economist at UBS, the Societies an economist at UBS, the Societies and pointing societies and building market activity within the leading figures will be seized upon by the Basik of England as a potential timeat to the inflation target."

Strong money supply growth is often seen as a pointer to finture inflation and Eddie if it continues unchecked.

Markets were also boosted by expectations, later confirmed after trading had fin-ished, that the US Federal Reserve would leave interest rates unchanged, and a Bun-desbank cut in German rates helped the FT-SB 100 to its second record high in three days.

Enrels evidence of the re-

turn off the consumer feelgood factor, highlighted by unexpectedly strong results lysts said such strong growth

of England, has warned that from a relatively stable per-interest rates might have to rise former augured well for more cyclically sensitive stores

groups. Another factor acting in the market's favour, according to analysts, was the perception that UK fund managers were amounts of cash that would eventually be allocated to UK equities.

Fund managers are getting very twitchy about having so much cash on their hands, and they're going to have to come from Arges on Monday, gave into the market sometime, the retail sector a push. Ana said Nick Parsons, a trader at Sosaid Nick Parsons, a trader at So-

Digital push up losses at Orange

CHRIS GODSMARK **Business Correspondent**

The costs of building a digital mobile phone network pushed losses at Orange up by more than 40 per cent to £125m in the first half of the year, the com-pany announced yesterday. But Orange, which floated on the stock market in April, also revealed better than expected figures for the growth and profitability of its customer base, news which helped to boost its flagging share price.
Orange's customer base grew

by 51 per cent in the first six months of the year, from 379,000 to 573,000. This was a significant improvement on competitors Cellnet and Mercompensors Cennet and Mercury One-2-One, though short of the 225,000 increase for the market leader, Vodafone. Orange's share of the digital mobile market rose slightly, from 24.5 per cent to 25.8 per cent, though Vodafone's share improved by a bigger margin, to 32.2 per cent.

Other statistics suggested Orange customers have remained loyal as the network expanded. The "churn" rate, which measures the percentage of customers who switch to other networks, fell from 18.1 per cent in the year to Decem ber 1995, to 17.6 per cent in the year to the end of June.

This compares with a rate of 25.6 per cent reported by Vodafone in the spring, though some of this represented customers who move from one retail "service provider" to another while staying with the network itself.

One surprise was the slight increase in average monthly revenues carned from each subscriber, from £36.51 per month to £36.86. Jim McCafferty, telecommunications analyst at stockbroker ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said: "Everyone was ex-

home subscribers rose 25 per tonic in the year said to a 63 per tent furing pared to a 63 per tent furing service agreement over 90 per from cable. Callestoesing generate the same failed of row length of the per subscriber, one shades to change have fallen analyst warmed.

Shares in Olange have fallen investment Commissions 12 dear the same for to 102-



MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, is considering plans to broadcast top boxing matches on a pay-per-view basis this au-tumn, featuring star British fighters such as "Prince" Naseem Hamed.

Frank Warren, the leading British promoter, confirmed last night he had talked to BSkyB about putting together world-level matches featuring both British and US boxers.

"Pay-per-view is not just the future, it is a fact now," Mr Warren said. "If we don't broadcast fights on pay-per-view, all the major bouts will simply move to the US for the money. The broadcasts would mark

the UK since the controversial Bruno-Tyson fight, for which 650,000 Sky subscribers paid either £9.95 or £12.95. BSkyB has long hinted it planned fur-ther PPV events, including sport and films.

BSkyB's chief executive, Sam Chisholm, declined to com-

plans. "The mechanics of how you do it are in place, and we know there is a silent majority out there who believe that payper-view is something they want," he said.

The news emerged as BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, unveiled another set of record pre-tax profits, up 66 per cent year on year to £257.4m, on revenues that for the first time breeched the £1bn mark.

Analysts said the results proved how lucrative Sky's near-monopoly in pay television continues to be, and suggested next year's figure could rise to as high as £350m, helped by yet another year in which the company will benefit from past tax losses to avoid mainstream cor-

"This is an outstanding financial performance," Mr Chisholm said. He predicted an even brighter future for the company, following the introduction of digital television at the end of next year.

"The digital satellite product has been the hottest consumer electronics launch in the history ment directly on pay-per-view

Boston suburbs since 1993.

Mr Maxmin is now hoping to franchise the concept worldwide

with the UK as his first target.

Speaking from his US home in

Maine, he said: "This has all the

characteristics of a business for

the 1990s. There are certain dis-

tribution channels that are real

dinosaurs. Banking and financial

services is one. Supermarkets

and Chelmsford in Essex as pos-

sible markets; suburban areas

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Source: FT Information

would just eat this up."



the UK, including Sky One, is considering jointly developing interactive services on digital TV with BT, the telecoms giant. These would include electronic

banking and home shopping. The digital plans call for as

BBC about jointly developing six to eight new channels, to be introduced within the next year. But analysts said the channels would be a welcome addition to Sky's digital platform. Flextech, the pay-TV pro-

in two to three months.

Mr Chisbolm also confirmed that heads of agreement had been reached with Leo Kirch, the Bavarian media mogal, to cement a pay-TV joint venture in Germany. The service, in

said one analyst. "They get a part of a market that has 32 million TV homes and a proven appetite for pay television."
There were some concerns,

however, that BSkyB may not be able to maintain its fast growth,

timent Column, page 18 1 day they rose op to 193p.

Maxmin back with home shopping plan Reliance Insurance, Stream-line has been under test in the

NIGEL COPE

Jim Maxmin, the former chief executive of Laura Ashley, is planning a return to UK retailing with a home shopping con-cept currently on trial in the US.

Mr Maxmin, who left Laura Ashley with a £1m pay-off two years ago, is a director of Streamline, a Massachusetts company which fetches groceries, picks up and returns dry cleaning, returns rented videos and handles the family mail. For a start-up fee of \$39 and

a monthly subscription of \$30 the company takes a family's weekly order and delivers it into secure, chilled boxes in customers' garages. Delivery staff gain entry by punching a code into a keypad.

Backed by Mr Maxmin and where traffic is lighter, making Saul Steinberg, the legendary delivery more efficient.

Jim Maxmin: 'This is a business for the 1990s

INTEREST RATES

are another. People spend hours each week doing the grocery shopping. We can save them that among food distribution companies but has not ruled out signing a deal with a supermarket discretionary time. Fifteen to 20 per cent of UK households chain. "Twe looked at France, Belgium and Holland and Den-Mr Maxmin has identified mark and I can't see why the Esher and Surbiton in Surrey concept won't apply there."

Streamline is aimed principally at higher income, timepressed families who are prepared to pay a premium to

avoid the Saturday trip to the supermarket. It visits new customers to establish their requirements and organise a regular shopping list.
Customers phone or fax the

list through to the company once a week, though from next month orders can be placed via the Internet. The goods are de-

Bond jailed for three years for art fraud

Failed Australian businessman Alan Bond was jailed for three years yesterday for fraud in-volving a French impressionist

In sentencing Bond, the Australian judge said the jail term was not the maximum 14-year sentence, but it would be like a "life sentence" as it would haunt the former high-flyer forever. Bond, lauded as Australian of

the Year after winning the America's Cup yacht race in 1983, will appeal against the con-viction, his lawyers later said. Bond, whose personal for-

tune was estimated at A\$350m (£180m) in the late 1980s, was found guilty last Friday on four fraud charges surrounding the sale of Edouard Manet's La

The jury found that Bond, 58, had improperly used his position as director of his former corporate flagship, Bond Corporation Holdings, to allow his private company to buy La Promenade for about A\$10m less than its value in 1988.

His private company, Dall-hold Investments, bought the painting for A\$2.46m and sold it a year later at auction in New York for A\$17m.

Judge Antoinette Kennedy

said Bond's passion for art and his inability to accept that Bond Corporation was no longer his private fieldom led to the fraud The judge dismissed a claim by defence lawyers that a cus-

Bond because of his failing An avid art collector in his heyday, Bond faces further charges associated with the collapse of his corporate empire in

todial sentence would kill

the early 1990s. He was jailed for two-and-ahalf years in 1992 after being found guilty of inducing a former friend to contribute to the rescue of a Western Australia bank while concealing a A\$16m fee for his own company.

He served only a few months in jail before a second jury acquitted him at a retrial.

CURRENCIES

Consumers call for power investigation

CHRIS GODSMARK **Business Correspondent**

Electricity consumers' groups yesterday called for a full-scale investigation into the operation of the power generation market by the Monopolies and Mergers

Electricity Consumers' Committees, which coordinates the work of 14 regional committees, attacked the prices levied by generators and said National Power and PowerGen, the two largest generating companies, should be broken up.

Arguing that the generators were not passing on lower costs to consumers, Ken Prior, the acting chairman of the committees, said: "We believe there's fat in generation... there's no incentive for electricity companies to negotiate hard to get prices down."

He said power generation was unregulated" and still con-trolled by National Power and PowerGen, which together account for around 40 per cent of the market. The two have reduced their share after the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, threatened them with a referral to the Mo-

nopolies Commission. National Power sold 4,000 megawatts of capacity to Eastern Group, the regional supplier, and PowerGen sold it a further 2,000, giving Eastern 9 per cent of the market.

But Mr Prior said Eastern's acquisition had not made much difference to the price mechanism in the generation market. "We can't see that it is adding to competition," he said. The Electricity Pool - the

which sets the price of power on a half-bourly basis - was stiff far too influenced by National Power and PowerGen. The two companies dominate the "midmerit" segment of the pool which generally determines the price at which all other generators can then sell their power. The Chairmen's Group of Mr Prior said he was disappointed that cheaper gas generators did not have more influence over the pool price

mechanism. The Chairman's Group said it would be putting its case to Professor Littled a next month, and they be levied that he was sympathetic. But a spokeswoman for the regulator said that he believed Listern's purchase of general capacity had increased competition.

The Consumers committees also accused the regional electricity committees of The Chairman's Group said

electricity companies of brinkmanship in their approach to the introduction of comestic competition, planned for April 1998. On Monday for Recs said that competition should be phased in over 18 months from April 1998.

Mr Prior said that "four or five" Recs were dragging their feet over competition and attacked the way the process had been organised; "They didn't project manage it, they set up committees," he said.

The electricity companies have been privately critical of the regulator for not taking a lead over the development of competition. Yesterday the Chairman's Group said Pro-fessor Littlechild had not done. enough to prepare customers for the change. "It's distributed that Offer has not given desired consideration to the propagate wholesale electricity market da campaign, Mr Prior and

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THE INDEPENDENT • WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 1996

business

COMMENT

'At the very least, there has been a highly complacent failure adequately to explain either the methodology or processes used in arriving at the

valuations. As a

its advisers risk

losing the deal'

result, Refuge and

More explanations called for in Refuge deal hen United Friendly and Refuge | dividend amounts to the whole of distrib- | that it has taken Perpetual to point it out to | of a business enjoying the biggest upswing | them, and that they are now too embaring for years. Demographic trends and | terms a couple of weeks back, most of us were so blinded by the obvious logic of the deal that we did not think to question the terms. Refuge's largest share-

the numbers and unless it is convinced otherwise at a meeting today with the company and its advisers, is determined to vote against the transaction. Refuge is equally insistent that a renegotiation of the terms is "out of the question" and is confident the deal will eventually go through as written.

holder, Perpetual, has since been crunching

The stock market is not so sure. Perpetual's case is a strong one and Refuge's expla-nations not wholly convincing. Perpetual has four basic problems with the terms. The first is that Refuge should have held out for a higher valuation of its "orphan estate" - the life fund assets which the DTI has agreed should belong to shareholders - and that in any case, the estate has been inadequately represented in the terms of the merger. The same is true of the company's pension fund surplus, Perpetual claims; a much higher proportion of the surplus should have been factored into the deal.

The third contention is that Refuge has steamed ahead with the deal without establishing or stating what the cost benefits of the transaction are or how they will be shared between policy holders and share-holders. Finally, the dividend is unfair, claims Perpetual. For United, the forecast

utable profits. For Refuge, it is only two-thirds. On the face of it, then, Refuge shareholders should be getting a majority of the combined group, not the minority they are served up with.

Refuge and its advisers, Phoenix Securi-ties, have answers to all these points, but they are not as robust as you might expect. More-over, they are more in the nature of excuses than convincing explanations. On the size of the orphan estate, for instance, they say that this is the maximum the DTI would allow, and that the DTI's word is final. On the other hand, Perpetual may be right to claim that a more vigorous, determined and less hasty approach might have resulted in a bet-ter deal. The United Friendly surplus was valued at only £275m when the DTI first pro-nounced on it some while back. Eventually it was negotiated up to £500m.

Then there is the unexplained fact that the estate was discounted by 20 per cent for the purposes of valuing Refuge. Why? Even more perplexing is Refuge's refusal to disclose what size of pension fund surplus has been factored into the valuation, or how this was established. This might reasonably be thought of as a quite insulting omission, but there's worse. It is the old fall-back position that these are complex businesses, hard for the likes of you and me to understand. Dear,

oh, dear. There is a real possibility that Refuge and its advisers have been caught napping here, ceded it lies in the fundamental attractions side had been expecting. It is well known that All very odd.

rassed to admit it. At the very least, there the massive growth of tourism, moreover, has been a highly complacent failure to explain adequately either the nature of the eral years yet. methodology or processes used in arriving at the valuations. As a result, Refuge and its advisers risk losing the deal.

The stock market is horribly prey to fads I and no more so than in the new issues arena. Two years ago falling interest rates had the City queuing up to invest in builders and property companies. Eventually the quality of the offerings deteriorated so much that even the better companies ended up slashing the asking price just to get the

The hotel sector is in the middle of that process, with Lonrho's Princess Metropole operation and now Thistle Hotels due on the block next month, both asking share-holders for in excess of £500m. Granada is hoping to raise another £1bn selling its Exclusive chain to a market that has aiready shelled out half as much on the flotations of Millennium & Copthorne, Jarvis, Cliveden and MacDonald Hotels. It is no wonder that Intercontinental is have ing second thoughts about the début it had planned for next spring.

The difference between the hotel sector's rush to the market and the fads that pre-

suggest the good news may continue for sev-

London is benefiting more than any where from the booming tourist market, a factor that will stand Thistle in good stead when it sets out its pitch to potential investors. Two thirds of its profits come from the capital where it is enjoying soaring occupancy and room rates.

Longer term, the outlook for the industry appears just as bright with increasingly rich travellers from the Far East displaying an insatiable appetite for European culture which, thanks to sterling's weakness, they are finding relatively cheap.

At home the grey pound is being spent more and more on weekend breaks away. which pleases hoteliers who earn a much fatter margin from the leisure market than they can squeeze out of sophisticated corporate

Those factors together with an almost total lack of investment in new hotel capacity during the 1990s should keep the sector on a roll long enough for Lourho and Thistle to secure successful floats.

British Airways' proposed tie-up with American Airlines would appear to have hit a pocket of turbulence that neither

Lang, the Office of Fair Trading and almost every airline in Britain and the US other than the bride and groom have the deepest

of reservations. But at least it seemed that Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, was on BA's side. Until now.

The go-ahead for the BA-American alliance is contingent upon Britain and the US agreeing a wider "open-skies" deal across the Atlantic after some five years of on-off negotiations. Without one, the other cannot happen since the price for allowing the two dominant transatlantic carriers to jump into bed it to give everyone else, notably other US airlines, a better crack at the market.

Sir George's negotiators, however, appear to be playing hardball with their opposite numbers in the US. In advance of resump-tion of talks next week, they have told their American counterparts that the deal being demanded by the US - fifth freedom rights to fly into Heathrow, pick up and then continue on to anywhere in Europe - is unac-ceptable unless the US grants cabotage to UK airlines, that is the right to operate domestic US services.

Now this may simply be posturing, a negotiating stance to extract the best deal for Britain. But the UK dropped cabotage from its wish list many moons ago and so it is not an issue, except to Virgin Atlantic.

Share of new home loans falls at Halifax

NIC CICUTTI

Halifax Building Society said yesterday that its refusal to enter the home loans price war had cut its share of net mortgage lending to barely 3 per cent of the market over the first half of

Excluding its acquisition of Banque Paribas' UK mortgage book, this contrasts sharply with its dominant 20 per cent share of the existing home loans market. Halifax's net mortage lending was £585m, and the gross figure, ignoring loan redemptions, was £4.8bn - a 14.1 per cent share of the market. Mike Blackburn, chief exec-



Mike Blackburn: Will profit from affordable share

utive at Halifax, said: "We are looking for asset quality and future profitability.
"My judgement is that future

profitability will not come to those who have the largest mar-ket share of the lending market. but who can afford the share they take."

Despite the unwillingness of many borrowers to switch their mortgages away from Halifax in view of its impending flotation, others were using lower mortgage interest rates to speed up their capital repayments by leaving their standing orders unchanged at higher levels.

Mr Blackburn's comments came as Halifax unveiled a rise

in first-half pre-tax profits of 6 per cent to £649m. The society said that it was still well on target for its stock market flotation in the summer of next year.

Jon Faulds, chairman at Halifax, said: "These results reflect further the steady progress at the Halifax, achieved while managing the continuing integration of Leeds Permanent, the planned acquisition of Clerical Medical and the proposed conversion.

The society said that its profits figures were achieved without writing off the mortgage incentives on offer to potential borrowers over several years, unlike some lenders.

Roger Boyes, group finance director, said that over the past six months these had reduced Halifax's profits by £64m. Since 1994, the accumulated difference in the society's profits was £295m, he added

Retail savings balances rose by £738m compared with about £2.5bn last year. Mr Blackburn said this was largely due to the society informing its savers that withdrawals from their accounts would not affect their free-share distribution at de-mutualisation.

Halifax has increased the number of its current account balances to more than 1.4 million, a increase of 14 per cent. Although its share of the current account market, including high street banks, is just 3 per cent, the society claimed that its "newto-banking" share of the market

was a far higher 8 per cent. Mr Blackburn added that the society's confidence in the current housing market meant that while it has closed 11 of its estate agency branches, it had acquired another 43 from Alliance & Leicester, mostly in

the South of England. Some 2,500 head-office staff in Halifax and Leeds have lost their jobs in the wake of the merger with Leeds Permanent last year, with more planned. But Mr Blackburn said that 1.000 jobs were being created as Halifax expands into telephonebased insurance sales.

Thatcher feared De Lorean backlash



The Thatcher government

pumped millions of pounds of

taxpayers' money into the

doomed De Lorean car plant in

emerge from the first full exam-

including Baroness Thatcher,

the former prime minister, should

be made public as part of the le-

gal action being brought by the

Government against De Lorean's auditors, Arthur Andersen.

In a memorandum to the Cab-

met's economic affairs commit-

tee dated 2 February, 1981 - 12

months before De Lorean's col-

lapse—the then Northern Ireland

Secretary Humphrey Atkins said:

To let this project go now would be seen, particularly by the mi-nority community, as betrayal in

the one area, economic devel-

opment, where the Government

could act positively. (It would no

doubt be contrasted with our con-

tinuing support for the largely Protestant Harland and Wolff and

unhappy comparisons would cer-

tainly be drawn with our current support of BL)."

Referring to a request from De Lorean for the government to

guarantee a £10m bank loan, Mr

Atkins went on: "Purely com-

mercial considerations would

suggest that the case for putting

more assistance into De Lorean

is, at best, doubtful. But we can-not settle this on commercial

Wolff shipyard.















Leon Brittan; Humphrey Atkins; John Banham; Patrick Jenkin; and Margaret Thatcher

Cabinet papers reveal that pulling out of the doomed car plant could have jeopardised the future of British Leyland. Michael Harrison reports tant for McKinseys and later to if it could be a marvellous joy to

west Belfast because scrapping the project would have made it grounds only. The De Lorean vendifficult to justify continued supture has become something of a port for the state-owned British symbol for HMG's economic Leyland and the Harland & commitment to Northern Ireland and especially to the minority community there."
In a subsequent video-taped

Ministers were also petrified that pulling the plug on the £70m venture would be seen as an act deposition, given in 1992 to James Zirin, Arthur Andersen's New York lawyer, Mr Atkins said that discussion of the loan guarof "betrayal" by Northern Ireland's nationalist community and serve as a recruitment drive for the antee had come shortly after The extraordinary political the death of the IRA hungerstrikmachinations that lay behind the er Bobby Sands. He had been Callaghan government's deci- buried near the factory and the sion to launch the project and the whole area was convulsed in ti-Thatcher administration's desots and attacks on local factories perate attempts to keep it alive

including the De Lorean plant. "The terrorist organisations, particularly the IRA, found it easination of hitherto secret Cabinet papers and affidavits made ier to recruit support for their terpublic last week by a New York rorist operations in areas of unemployment than in other The southern district court of New York ruled that 250 separate documents, from Cabinet min-utes and confidential memoranareas, Mr Alkins said. Asked whether this argued in favour of additional funds, he replied: "Indeed it did. It was one of the many da to depositions from witnesses

Approval for public funds to

build the extravagant gull-winged car was given at a crucial meeting of the Callaghan Cabinet on 26 July, 1978 at which then then ferent view. In a 13-page report submitted just eight days earlier, he warned the Cabinet that it was Norhern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason argued strongly in its favour. The largely Catholic west "an extraordinarily risky venture" and "ambitious to say the

Belfast had 35-40 per cent male unemployment and was in "real danger of degenerating into a ghet-In a subsequent deposition in 1990 , Sir John said: "There are to". The best counter to the influence of the IRA in the area was very few projects where hindsight

There are very few projects where hindsight and foresight seem quite so clearly aligned' - Sir John Banham

to provide new jobs. "It was there-fore of the utmost political, social and psychological importance that the project should go ahead. This would be a hammer blow to the IRA. Indirectly, it would save

soldiers' lives," he said.

and foresight seem quite so clear-by aligned."

Mrs Thatcher had her forebodings as well although initially her reaction was positive. In her video-taped affidavit, she says: We had seen pictures of the design of a car and it looked as

be knighted after serving as the any young person who could CBI's director general, took a difdashing car." But she soon became suspi-

cious: "If anyone comes to me for money again and again and again and again, naturally I begin to question the wisdom of the original decision and naturally I am reluctant to give taxpayers'

De Lorean had already soaked up £50m by the time the first demonth by the Cabinet economic affairs committee, chaired by the then Industry Secretary Sir Keith Joseph.

Mr Atkins told the committee that there was "considerable risk that the project might prove com-mercially unsuccessful given the very changed economic circumstances of the motor industry". But he went on: "To refuse support would undoubtedly have an impact on the security situation in North-

em Ireland at a time of year when emotions were in any case running high." Within seven months De Lorean was back with the begging bowl, this time asking for the government to guarantee a £10m loan, in a letter to the Prime Min-ister dated 3 February, 1981, Mr Aikins said: "I am convinced that for reasons mainly special to North-em Incland we should accede to this request." Three days later Sir Keith

penned a private memo saying that if the government refused it would be blamed. "The longerterm future of the project remains uncertain but, if it is to fail, the committee agrees with mand for an extra £21m landed the Secretary of State that this in July, 1980. It was discussed that must be seen to be demonstrably the responsibility of Mr De Lorean and not the fault of the

government. In a handwritten note at the top of the memo Mrs Thatcher added: "I take it this is the last [double underlined] help we

give to this unwise project."
It was not. In December, 1981 the loan guarantee was about to run out and De Lorean was back cap in hand yet again asking for a six-month extenion and a further £5m top up to the facility. But by this time the Cabinet players had changed. Jim Prior had taken over from Mr Atkins as Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Keith had handed over as Industry Secretary to Patrick Jenkin, and Leon Brittan had become Chief Secretary

Mr Prior told his colleagues that "in commercial terms it would make little sense to end the project at this stage". It was to be a short-lived reprieve. Within a month De Lorean's financial position had deteriorated to an alarming degree. On 21 January, 1982 Mr Prior told Cabinet that without a further injection of £47m De Lorean would have to cease trading in eight days. A month later De

Lorean was put into receivership. The cruellest irony was that af-ter all the symbolism invested in De Lorean, it self-destructed without handing the IRA a propaganda victory. As Mr Prior told Cabinet on 28 January 1982, "So far there have been no adverse political consequences in North-

• Active Imaging's shares | EU minister in talks to plummet below placing defuse VW state aid row

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Active Imaging, a high tech group floated on the Alternative Investment Market in April, saw its shares dive below the placing price yesterday after it warned that results would be "significantly" short of market expectations and announced the resignation of its managing

The price slumped 18p to director. 110p, which compares with the 112p flotation, on news that the loss of two key distribution contracts in the US would hit revenues "significantly" in the group's original Data Cell soft-ware reseller business. David Slorach, responsible for the Data Cell operations, has resigned, apparently in response to the problems there. Raymond Fagan, Active Imaging finance director, said:

"Inevitably when these sorts of things happen it takes its toll in personal pressures." He added that Mr Slorach's payoff would not exceed one year's salary, currently £50,000.

Ingrid von Hentschel, an analyst with Beeson Gregory, the group's brokers, said first half results, due to be announced next month, would be "absolutely dreadful". She has downgraded her forecast for the current year from a loss of £900,000 to

one of £1.9m. The cancellation announced yesterday of the exclusive contract with Imaging Technology Inc follows on from the earlier termination of a deal to sell its Optimas product. Active Imaging has replaced the business, estimated by Beeson Gregory to represent £1m of expected revenues of £7m this year, with new distribution contracts with two

other US imaging companies, Media Cybernetics and Cognex. Although Active Imaging ex-

pects "significant progress being achieved in the remainder of the year", Ms von Hentschel expects Data Cell to have to undertake further work on its software products to make them fully compatible with those of Media Cybernetics, which will hit this year's figures.

However, she has upgraded her forecast for next year to a profit of £500,000, compared with a break-even expectation before, as a result of improved ex-pectations for the British group's Internet imaging product.

It was excitement over the

prospects for Active Imaging's intelligent digital cameras which allowed it to raise £5m in the April placing and send its shares soaring to 160p soon after-

John De Lorean: His guil-winged car project was 'an extraordinarily risky venture'

Günter Rexrodt, the German Economics Minister, and Karel van Miert, the European Competition Minister, have agreed to meet earlier than planned in a bid to defuse a simmering row over state aid payments to Volkswagen, the German car manufacturer.

The dispute centres on a DM91 (£40m) aid payment made to Volkswagen by Kurt Biedenkopf, the Saxony Prime Minister, who claimed the state stood to lose 23,000 automotive obs in Mosel and Chemintz if it did not pay.

The minister and the EU

official spoke on the phone yesterday and agreed to an earlier meeting on Friday instead of next Tuesday. Their conversation was an effort to create a constructive foundation for a solution and "calm things down a bit", the EU said.

The European Commission says it considers the aid to be illegal and that the onus is on German authorities to resolve the dispute over funding. "The subsidies are illegal. They must end. The ball is in the German court," a Commission spokes-

The spokesman added: "The Commission has every right to take an interest in public subsidies paid to the German manufacturer. Failure to respect [the Commission's] decision would have significant repercussions on the functioning of the single European market."
The Commission maintains

that allowing the Saxony subsidy would cause a string of demands for similar subsidies in east Germany. It says that, until the amount is repaid, it will block other requests by VW for subsidies. It also said that rivals in public procurement bids might take legal action to exclude VW from public tenders. The German government

accepts Saxony's arguments that the payouts are justified, but believes the state went too far by defying the order from Brossels, an Economics Ministry spokesman said. The government has become worried that the dispute will spur anti-EU

sentiment in the country.

Mr van Miert said: "You cannot simply break the law and hope the European Commis-sion will close its eyes. This would be the end of the internal market in Europe." Yesterday's telephone con-

versation with Mr van Miert was Mr Rexrodt's first official act after a 10-week bout of malaria. Neither side would comment on its hopes for a satisfactory

The UK and France have told the European Commission that a missiles joint venture between British Aerospace and Lagardere affects both countries' security interests and that they were opposed to an EU investigation of the deal. A Department of Trade and Industry statement said the two governments had told the Commission "it would not be appropriate for the exclusively military ispects of the transaction to be notified to or considered by the EU Commission under the EC Merger Regulation. The joint venture will be called Matra BAe Dynamics.

• Russia appeared ready to sign a new diamond trade contract with De Beers Central Selling Organisation, said the chairman, Nicky Oppenheimer. "They [Russia] are looking to raise capital on Western markets and a key factor in that will be the CSO, "he said. The expiry last year of Russia's previous contract with the CSO weakened investor confidence in the diamond market, but buoyancy was restored after the signing in February of a memorandum of understanding between De Beers and the Russian government.

 The Bundesbank announced M3 figures in line with expectations, showing that growth slowed to an annualised rate of 8.6 per cent in July, down from 9.6 per cent in June. It attributed the slowdown in growth to the dampening effect of public sector cash transactions.

 Tioxide Group, the Imperial Chemical Industries' subsidiary. and Yu Gang Co of Chongquing have ended discussions on forming a joint venture to produce titanium dioxide in China.

Courtaulds has agreed to sell its Taubmans architectural coatings business in Australia to South Africa's Barlow for £17m. Courtaulds said the aerospace, industrial and heavy duty coatings businesses of Courtaulds Coatings in Australasia and South-east Asia are unaffected by the sale.

Can anything now stop BSkyB?

From being one of the City's most ma-ligned stocks at flotation 18 months ago, BSkyB has rarely looked back since, soaring to an all-time high this week in expectation of record profits for the year to June. Sam Chisholm, chief executive, duly obliged yesterday, unveiling £257m in pre-tax profits, a dividend of 5.5p, and revenues above £1bn for the first time.

The shares trading at a whopping 535p. up from just 240p at flotation, have seemed to dely gravity, especially since BSkyB clinched a deal to jointly develop pay-TV in Germany with Bavarian mogul Leo Kirch earlier this year. It helped, too, that the Office of Fair Trading gave the company a clean bill of health following an investigation into al-legations of monopolistic behaviour. Markets can be cruel to recently floated growth stocks if they are priced too ag-

Can anything now stop BSkyB? The company has the best programming from Hollywood and the world of sport, the best management subscription system in the country, and the only viable en-cryption technology for the scrambling and unscrambling of TV signals.

Importantly, it has proven it can increase subscription prices every year. on the back of new programming. This vear, viewers get the Warner Channel. the Weather Channel, and seven new services from the Granada-BSkyB joint venture. The cash flow allows programme purchase budgets to rise yet further, enticing new subscribers and sending revenues higher. Sam Chisholm calls it the "virtuous circle".

There are a few worries on the horizon, all the same. Up until now, BSkyB has generated the bulk of its revenues from its charges to direct-to-home (DTH) viewers (those equipped with satellite dishes). But more than half of net new subscribers are now getting their Sky Television channels via cable. which generates lower revenues per household than DTH.

BSkyB faces some big bills in the next few years. The first will be as much as £200m to develop DF1, its German pay-TV venture. Then it will have to meet the costs of introducing digital satellite in the UK, which no one has been able to reliably quantify.

There is no problem with the big investment demands: Sky has virtually no debt and generates pre-tax profits of nearly £9 a second. But the amazing profit margins of late don't look sustainable.

Of course, BSkyB has been underestimated before. It could be that the company manages to migrate its existing near-monopoly from analogue to digital, maintaining its profit margins.

There must be a risk, however, that the expected profits of £320m in 1996/7, or 17.1p a share, will be the end of the red-hot growth period for

nge Brothers (F) 26,2m (23.8m)

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN lose £250m this year, up from £140.5m last year as it continues to spend

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

BSkyB, as it settles into being a big, profitable but more mature broadcaster. That would make the forward multiple of a whopping 31 times earnings look demanding.

Orange is still a leap of faith

growth stocks if they are priced too aggressively and Orange has been no exception. Investors who paid 205p in April's flotation have had a nail-biting time over the past few weeks, watching the share price climb to a peak of 254p, only to dive to a low of 173p. The future apparently wasn't as "bright" for shareholders as the company's undeniably slick publicity had suggested. Yesterday things began to perk up again, even though Orange reported a 40 per cent increase in its half-yearly ses to £125.2m. The share price climbed 6p to 193p.

Five Year record

Dividends per share (pence)

Turnover by category

harrow (cm)

Carrier Court 1000

25.6

pressive technological wizardry has allowed anyone to travel into the future to see how much of the company's un-deniable promise can be translated into hard profits.

Optimists can point to a mass of sta-tistics which show Orange's impressive customer loyalty. "Churn" rate – the pace at which customers switch to other networks - fell from 18.1 per cent in the first half of 1995 to 17.6 per cent in the first six months of this year. That compares with Vodafone's last published figure of 25.6 per cent at the end of March and 30 per cent for Cellnet.

More impressive is the fact that Orange's average monthly revenue earned from each customer rose from £36.51 to £36.86. It may not seem much, but analysts had expected revenue per head to fall as lower-spending cus-tomers joined the network. So not only are Orange's customer loyal, they are also - probably - better customers than those of some other networks in terms

of spending power.
That's the good news. According to more pessimistic analysts, however, The problem investors have been experiencing is that not even Orange's im-

Share price

heavily on building its network. By anyone's standards these are big numbers. Vodafone, on the other hand, will make around £500m just from its UK operations, with Cellnet expected to make £230m. Investors are unlikely to see any profits worth mentioning until 1998-99, and dividends may come later still. Orange remains a leap of faith.

Takare suffers in care confusion

The past year has been bloody for private nursing home groups, but few have suffered as badly as Takare, biggest in the sector. Standing at 225p last September, the shares have since crashed to 136p, up 5p yesterday. The well-publicised squeeze on local authority funding has hit the group particularly hard, heavily dependent as it is on social service department budgets.

After more than three years of op-eration, the problems associated with the Community Care Act, which devolved financing of the elderly to local authorities, show little sign of resolution. The system appears to be in paralysis in parts of the country like Liverpool, choking up hospitals with old people who should be in homes. Takare's occupancy levels have been hit accordingly, fall points to 92.4 per cent in established bomes during the six months to June. With a big opening programme, Takare is highly geared to occupancy and this relatively modest drop has had a disproportionate effect on the interim figures. Pre-tax profits slumped 13 per cent to £8.66m in the half year.

The occupancy problems, which have been concentrated in some of the start-up homes, have now prompted a radical change in strategy. Takare is dumping its new build approach in favour of acquisitions. Management reckons it could live with up to 80 per cent gearing if the right deals come along, giving it firepower of around £100m, although it is ruling out hostile bids like Westminster Healthcare's tilt at Goldsborough.

At the same time, Takare plans to sweat existing assets by courting more private payers and high dependency residents, while offering more services from homes, such as meals on wheels, and district nursing.

The strategy makes sense, but with political uncertainties continuing, the external climate remains cloudy. Profits of around £18m this year would give a forward multiple of 12. Hold.

Sharp-tongued Chisholm aims a blow at Panmure

CITY DIARY JOHN WILLCOCK

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, put a goodnatured boot into Anthony

meeting yesterday. Mr de Larrinaga has been advising clients to sell BSkyB for months, even as the share has charged ahead to 535p. He thinks the shares in Rupert Murdoch's money mach-

de Larrinaga of Panmure Gordon at the analyst's

me are worth, at most, 450p. As the meeting proceeded, Mr Chisholm swatted the doubting de Larrinaga: "You go ahead and continue to make your clients poorer."

John Greenhaigh and his colleagues at PR outfit City of London will be celebrating with a bottle or three of Pinot Noir 1982 from the Coldstream vineyard in Victoria, Australia today.

The firm is due to receive a cheque for £100,000, thanks to an investment in the Coldstream vineyard two-years ago which has come spectacu-

But it did not go quite as planned, admits Mr Green-halgh. "We invested £160,000 two years ago in order to use Coldstream to build a financial services arm in Australia. The asset value of the shares covered the price. But now Southcorp (a big Australian wine maker) has bought Coldstream, and the invest-

ment has been a winner." Other shareholders in Coldstream include members of the Coldstream Guards, Mr Greenhalgh adds. City of London, which gained promotion from the USM to a full listing this month, has another £5m invested in various situations, including a chunk of Signet it bought three years ago. At this rate, Mr Greenhalgh will be trad-ing spin doctoring for investment trust status.

Get fit with the Lord Mayor of London. Sir John Chalstrey is calling on everyone in



Keith Bradshaw, chairman of Takare, the nursing home group, is justly proud of the success of his company. But Mr Bradshaw, son of a Birmingham machinist, is also a director of a chain of motor dealers in the Midlands, and of BLT Industries. The latter business is beloved of heavy metal "musicians" - such as the grungy fictional combo Spinal Tap (above) - as it makes amps, speakers and keyboards for HM bands, with exports to Germany and Japan. Mr Bradshaw declared: "Its the one I get a real kick out of. Selling imported cars or a service business like this [Takare] is all very well, but Brum was founded on making things."

the City to support the Corporation's "Good health to the City and the Nation" day on Saturday 7 September.

Sadly, this does not mean that the Lord Mayor will be shedding his ermine and stepping into Mr Motivatorstyle lycra. However, a spokeswoman says: "He's a keen swimmer. He's a very keen walker, and he's gone to Scotland for his holidays."

The battle of the Barings books is hotting up. The allegedly definitive version of the merchant bank's collapse by John Gapper and Nick Denton, due out on 23 September, is being pre-empted

by two paperbacks.
In what Mr Gapper, the Financial Times's urbane banking editor, suspects is "a spoiler", Stephen Fay's hard-back The Collapse of Barings, published last February, is

being put out again as a paperback in a fortnight's time. Not to be outdone, Nick Leeson's own tome, Rogue Trader, ghost-written by Ed-ward Whitley and also published last February, is due to

appear as a paperhack. Mr Gapper is unflustered about the fate of his All that Glitters; The Fall of Barings.
"Wait till the 23rd, You'll get the real thing," he purts.

Chris Ring, formerly head of private client stockbrokers Wise Speke, has had a neryous start as head of NatWest Stockbrokers, the bank's retail arm. The business side is fine. but he had a hard time dealing with a hot air balloon ascent which the bank staged as part of a "meet the press" stunt. "I don't particularly like heights," he admits. "You take your life in your hands when you join NatWest."

Refuge attempts to avert revolt on United merger 1.40m (1.16m) 22.9p (19.3p) 7.2p (6.8p) NIC CICUTTI 1.01bn (778m) 257m (155m) 13.6p (8.7p) 1.45p (1.45p)

11.3m (13.8m) 0.73m (1.17m) 3.3p (5.6p) 0.54m (0.10m) 1.71p (0.35p) 0.45p (0.3p) -1.25m (-88 8m) -0.13p (-0.12p) n# (-) 257m (100m) 233m (217m) 4.09m (2.98m) 10.5p (7.7p) 8 7m (10 0m) 5.5p (6.5p) -63 7m (12.8m) -6.84p (1.36p) n# (-)

COMPANY RESULTS

Thistle Hotels (I) (F) - Final (I) - Intern

BSkyB (F)

Senior executives at Refuge Assurance, the insurer, will today meet with Perpetual, the fund manager and one of its largest single shareholders, in an attempt to avert a threatened vote against the planned £1.4bn merger with United Friendly.

discuss Perpetual's claim that
Refuge shareholders are getting a raw deal from the merger, which undervalues the

the discussions we hold with
Refuge. My position now is that
this merger is a bad deal for
shareholders and should not be

at Perpetual, said yesterday that if the talks did not resolve the significant worries he had over over the exact terms of the merger, he would vote against it at a special shareholders'

meeting on 9 September. "I will make my own mind up The meeting will be held to in the light of what is said and

I do not know how other shareholders might react. The position is that since I made my opposition known, a significant number of small shareholders have been in touch to say they agree with my arguments. Some other fund managers with larger holdings also have reservations. The meeting itself requires a simple majority for it to succeed."

Mr Woodford's comments

company by up to £500m. But supported," Mr Woodford follow a wrangle between Neil Woodford, fund manager said.

Perpetual and Refuge over the ment is based on arguments been in force, should go to exact proportion of so-called "orphan assets", which are attributable to shareholders

> ed Friendly takes place. Perpetual, which holds 7 per cent of Refuge's shares, believes that the a greater part of the surpluses which had accumulated in the insurers' funds since its formation in the mid-19th century, belong to share-

before the merger with Unit-

over the exact value of Refuge's pension fund and how much of its surplus shareholders are entitled to.

Also on differing views of the proportion of funds in the ordinary and industrial branches of refuge's business which are assets distributable between policyholders and shareholders.

Perpetual's view is that all funds accumulated before 1928, since when a 90/10 split shareholders.

The company also argues that part of the funds accumulated in a separate ordinary branch, which represents policies where premiums are still collected door to door, should also go to shareholders.

Although this was blocked by the Department of Trade and Industry, Perpetual argues that Refuge shoud have argued harder for it to happen.

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THE INDEPENDENT section two

Thistle joins growing list of hoteliers coming to the market



Good times: The Thistle board of directors has been encouraged by the tourist boom to float

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

The hotel sector's rush to the stockmarket was joined by another heavyweight group yes-terday as Thistle Hotels, London's biggest hotelier, confirmed its plans to float next month in an international placing and intermediaries offer.

The offer, which is expected to value the former Mount Charlotte Group at between £1bn and £1.5bn, is being pitched particularly at small private investors who will be offered discounts on hotel rooms as a perk.

The return of Thistle, owner of the five-star White's hotel. Cannizaro House in Wimbledon and 98 other mainly four-star hotels, will coincide with the planned flotation of Lonrho's hotels arm, Princess Metro-pole. Both companies are expected to tap investors for between £500m and £700m, prompting some analysts to question whether the market might start to tire of so many demands from one sector.

So far this year four companies have come to the market -Millennium & Copthorne, Jarvis, Macdonald Hotels and Cliveden - and more floats are expected next year.
Robert Peel, Thistle's chief

executive, said he believed there would be plenty of demand for shares in good quality hotel companies, especially one such as Thistle which focused exclusively on the UK, thanks to the £3bn that was effectively taken out of the sector by Granada's takeover of Forte at the begin-

ning of the year. Thistle, and the other hotel floats, are counting on a continuation of the buoyant condi-tions in the UK market, company's largest shareholder

record numbers of tourists are pushing occupancy levels higher and bidding up room rates. Thistle, which announced an

88 per cent jump in underlying profits in the six months to July, said room sales in the capital had risen by 22 per cent during the period. Thanks to the relatively fixed cost base of the hotel business that had given profits a massive boost - according to Mr Peel, for every £1 of extra revenue profits in Lon-

don rose by 73p.

Thistle actually reported a loss before tax of £63.7m compared with 1995's first half profits of £34.8m due to an £87.8m exceptional charge which formed part of a £204.6m write down of ne value of the company's £1.7bn portfolio of 100 hotels. The flotation of Thistle pro-

vides a partial exit route for the

especially in London, where Brierley Investments, the New Zealand-based conglomerate that acquired the former Mount

Charlotte in 1990. Representing more than half Brierley's assets it was always understood that it would attempt to reduce its stake when market conditions allowed. Brierley plans to lower its stake from 70 per cent to under

50 per cent. The Singaporean government, which holds the remaining 30 per cent, is expect-ed to reduce its holding by a similar proportion.
Although no indicative price will be announced until the

prospectus is issued in the middle of September, initial soundings suggest £250m of new money will be raised of which £150m will repay a convertible loan and £100m be used to expand Thistle's current 13,600 rooms by about 2,000.

In Brief

· Perry Group, the motor dealer, has raced ahead with pre-tax profits up 37 per cent to £4.1m in the six months to June. Chairman Richard Allan said retail sales of new and used cars in August were well ahead of 1995 levels. He added that total sales of the new "P-registration" cars would be ahead of the 469,000 recorded last year. However, he forecast that the final figure would be less than the industry estimates of 500,000.

 Graseby, the monitoring equipment group, said it was firing on all four cylinders for the first time in five years as it reported a bounce back from last year's depressed second half. Pre-tax profits slipped from £5.37m to £4.99m in the six months to June, but that represented a substantial improvement on the £634,000 reported

in the immediately preceding six months.

The defence division more than doubled profits to £1.48m and the group said it was the first time in five years it was seeing growth in the business. Profits fell in the product monitoring and medical arms, but the latter will be almost doubled by the recent acquisition of 3M's drug monitoring equipment operation. The interim dividend is being held at 2.7p.

• Glenchewton, the homewares and pubs group, saw profits rise sharply to £538,000 (£104,000) at the interim stage. The figures were boosted by last October's acquisition of Country Style lans. There are now 17 pubs in the chain with more openings planned for this year. Like-for-like sales in the pubs rose by 8 per cent during the period. The dividend was increased by 50 per cent to

 Syndicate Capital Trust, a corporate capital provider at Lloyd's, is expecting a "sound initial result" from its first year of under-writing activities in the insurance market. Richard Fielding, recently appointed chairman, said he was confident the shortly to be reported figures for the 1994 underwriting year would "stand

us in good stead in the more difficult years ahead."

The group, which recently raised £23m from shareholders in anticipation of the success of the Lloyd's rescue plan, saw revenues slip from £1.57m to £1.39m in the year to June. A final dividend of 1.75p maintains the annual total at 2.75p.

• Kerry Group, the Irish foods company, lifted half-year profits by 21 per cent to Ir£20m. The figures were boosted by strong organic growth in both consumer foods and ingredients

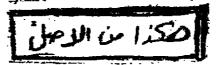
 Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications group, increased profits by 31 per cent to Swedish kroner 4.2hn in the six months to June. Order bookings increased 20 per cent to SKr63.3bn due to strong performances from radio and public telecommunica-

Ericsson said cashflow was still negative due to continued expansion and increased demands for customer financing. Some operations may be sold as a result.

Armitage Brothers, the pet food manufacturer, grew profits from £1.1m to £1.4m in the year to June despite no real evidence

of a consumer upturn, the company said.

Sales grew to £26m helped by a late contribution from the recently acquired Phoenix fish foods business and the recovery of inflationary costs. The full-year dividend was increased from 6.8p



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SHORTS

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FT-SE 350 <u>1941.6</u> +9.3 SEAQ VOLUME 629m shares, 32,435 bargains Gilts Index 93.33 -0.08



Enterprise leads the way as oil groups spurt upwards gusher as the stock market re-

Spurred by the strength of the crude price, leading oil groups made headway although British Petroleum, which has hit new highs with almost monotonous regularity, was for once left in the cold.

It was the turn of Enterprise Oil to make the running. The shares jumped 14.5p to a 510.5p peak as Robert Flem-ing Securities was thought to underline its belief the shares will go to 600p. Since its humiliating defeat

at the hands of the Lasmo oil group, Enterprise, after a dutiful period of contrition, has recaptured its exuberance and adopted a higher City profile. Elf Aquitaine, the French group which once had 26 per cent, sold its remaining interest earlier this year. But there

Oils enjoyed an investment ers with a number of institutions anxious to increase their sumed its upwards and oninvolvement. The group has a portfolio of exciting overseas ventures; Italy is looking particularly promising.

With its shares at their highest for four years - they hit 686p in 1990 - it may not be long before Enterprise is tempted back into the takeover arena - although Lasmo is: unlikely to be targeted again. James Capel was responsible for BP's weakness, suggesting a switch into Shell. It was enough to lower BP 2p to 629p and lift Shell 12p to 961p.
Smaller oil groups joined the fun with Barclays De Zoete Model weighting in with some

cheerful comments, Caim En-ergy added 8p to 322p; Hardy Oil & Gas (regarded as the most likely takeover candidate) 4p to 274p and Tullow Oil

Wedd weighing in with some

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter

19.5 points to 3,883.2. The possibility of lower interest rates continues to enthral the for the exit. stock market. Growing evidence the "feel-good factor" is seeping through and possibly developing into an economic boom is another thought which is stirring the market and en-

couraging talk of a heady run.
The supporting FT-SE 250 index, still a far cry from its peak, is, nevertheless, feeling the buying impact. It rose 17 points to 4,385.3 - its fifteenth consecutive gain. However, with many big

hitters still on holiday trading levels remain uninspiring. And the market looks fragile. It

Railtrack, enjoying its first bull run, steamed ahead an-other 5.5p to 255.5p. Its 6.8 per cent dividend yield is drawing in institutions but there is also talk of property deals being inked in the next few weeks. In addition there is a nagging sus-picion that after the takeover of Porterbrook, the rail leasing company, Railtrack may not be immune from corporate at-

tention. Retailers drew more inspiration from the Argos figures with Kinglisher up 14p at 668p. Great Universal Stores had the added support of hopes of a

share buy back or special dividend, gaining 23p to 663p.

Bass frothed up in late trading - 13p to 836p - on talk the protracted deal over Carlsberg-Tetley had finally be concluded. Allied Domecq, owner of half of CT, gained 3p to

450p. Grand Grand Metropolitan jumped 15p to 477p, highest for two years. It is due to make an investment presentation on its

food division today.
EMI managed a further 14p
advance to 1,474p; Thorn gave
further ground, off 2p at 389p. Hazlewood, the food group. was ruffled by a 7.4 million delayed trade, easing 1p to 98p. Associated British Foods shaded to 402p as Henderson Crosthwaite expressed cau-

tion about pricing pressures. British Gas firmed to 198p ahead of today's Ofgas pronouncement on its TransCo. unit's pricing policy.

Active Imagining produced

the day's profit warning, falling 18p to 110p. Pegasus, the computer

market report/shares

group, slipped 2p to 393p. Bigger rival Sage has a hostile 425p-a-share bid on the table. Refuge added 9p to 403p as Perpetual emerged as one of the fund managers nursing doubts about the terms of the proposed merger with United Friendly, Perpetual, which believes the deal undervalues

Refuge, is due to meet the two insurance groups today.

Astec (BSR), the electrical equipment maker, gained 2.5p to 135p on talk of a Swedish bid. Costain, the hard pressed builder, fell 5p to 66p on reports it could lose its quote because of the dominating position of three main shareholders.

Hawtin, the sports equip-ment group, rose Ip to 48p. Stockbroker Wise Speke expects profits to improve £600,000 to £5.1m this year with £5.9m likely next, it rates the shares a buy. the offing.

□Emerald Energy, unchanged at 2p, is thought to be near to acquiring Colombinn oil interests which could transform the company, it has recruited Dr Keith Hewitt.

TAKING STOCK

formerly Texaco's man in the South American country, as a director And Dr Hewitt, who has enjoyed remarkable exploration success in Colombia, has picked up 7.5 per cent of Emerald, become the oil minnow's biggest shareholder. The Colombian adventure could dwarf Emerald's existing US operations. To finance its expansion Emerald is on a cash raising exercise which will include a

Chieftain, the insulation group, held at 41p, a 12 month high. It is thought to be trading well. Takeover speculation is also in the air.

2p to 97.5p.
The FT-SE 100 index has been no shortage of buy- stretched to another peak-up would not take much bearish

Share Price Data

The state of the state of

Century coaching inn in Midhurst and Bailiffscourt, a mediaeval folly in Climping are offering Independent readers the chance to win a luxurious Independent mumber below, answer the

Ockenden Manor in Cuckfield, the Spread Eagle Hotel, a 15th Century coaching inn in

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Teak

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

Great walking. Beautiful scenery. A rambler's paradise ...if someone doesn't stop you finishing the journey



Ramblers in England and Wales have a one in three chance of completing a two-mile walk on rights of way

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Barbed wire, undergrowth, locked gates and crops look like turning the Government's target of an unobstructed country footpath network by 2000 into something of an embarrass-

In 1987, the declaration that all 140,000 miles of public paths in England and Wales would be open to walkers had a popular ring. After all, some 250 million walking trips of more than two miles are made in the countryside each year. But the target, set by the Countryside Commission, is beginning to look an awkward hostage to fortune. Recent surveys indicate that 25 per cent of the network is still difficult to follow without en-

countering obstacles. And despite entreaties from National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Astruculent or indifferent hard- ago for failing to do its job." core of farmers and landowners seem unlikely to change

powers under the 1990 Rights of Way Act.

The gap between the com-mission's target and reality was highlighted yesterday by the Ramblers' Association. At six locations in Britain, footpath activists drew attention to blatant examples of obstruction in the opening shot of a 'Free Your Paths" campaign.
Not all the blockages could

he blamed on farmers. In Epping Forest district, the association drew attention to a brick wall and wrought iron gate built by a bouseholder across a

Essex footpath secretary, said ramblers had been told as long ago as 1991 that the council was taking legal action to get the wall removed. Epping Forest district council acts as an agent council was a private company, sociation – to obey the law, a - it would have been sacked years.

Epping is not unusual. In Somerset, RA chairman Kate Ashbrook led a group on a com-

farmer readily acknowledged a

footpath should be visible.

Footpath obstruction must be

tryside," Ms Ashbrook said. The maize field is in Wedmore, near Cheddar, where local ramblers reckon about half the parish's 100 paths are ob-John Holness, the RA's West structed. Somerset county council does not expect to have many of them in good order by the millennium.

after conducting a survey which found that walkers in England their own organisations - the for Essex County Council, but, and Wales had on average only Mr Holness, said: "if the district a one in three chance of being able to complete a two-mile country walk on rights of way.

will and readiness to use scarce cils make robust use of their pass bearing through a field of resources on implementing the ficult to use.

six-foot high maize where the Act, which gave councils power to prosecute or remove obstructions themselves and send the bill to the landowner.

the biggest crime in the coun-Somerset has a record of not prosecuting while Buckinghamshire, for example, does. As a result, Buckinghamshire looks like meeting the deadline on clearing its paths.
The findings of a re-survey by

the commission are due to be published in October. Thanks to a doubling of grant to councils for footpath work, to £25m, and the 1990 Act, these will show that at least three-quarters of the 140,000 miles are open for use. But the RA, some of much of the leg-work for the The picture today is better, survey, are concerned that with if patchy. It depends on whether only three years to go to the milhighways authorities have the lennium, 40,000 miles of network remain impossible or dif-

E T E C S N T
HEARTATTACKS
A R T O H T

Land of beauty and barbed wire

Snarling dogs and shotguns apart, nothing is more off-putting to country walkers than barbed wire, writes Stephen Goodwin. And in few areas are the entanglements more numerous than in the neighbouring parishes of Whitford and

Ysceifiog in Flintshire. Walking is the most popular recreation in Wales yet it can ofmile network are reckoned impossible or difficult to use - a worse record than in England. A deep-rooted dislike of outsiders in the quieter communi-

ties is tactfully hinted at by Welsh footpath campaigners who try to explain the difference.

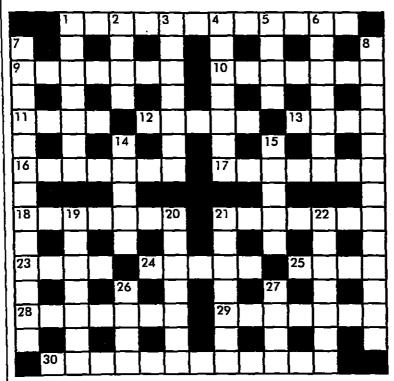
ford and Ysceifing could

sides is the splendid view over the Dee estuary, but it is hazardous terrain for the walker. The Ramblers' Association's

latest survey of the area lists 185 obstructions in the two parishes - 69 in Whitford and 116 in Ysceifing. Barbed wire is the

blocked. The ramblers drew attention to the dismal record in 1992 and little has changed since, aithough the local squire, Lord Mostyn, did put footpaths on his own land in order. John Robinson, the RA's North Wales secretary, is not timistic that Flintshire Coun-Council will take action against farmers who refuse to

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD No. 3071. Wednesday 21 August By Aquilla Thesday's Solution IIINGILIOIRI I OLUIS IIIICIH



ACROSS

- fashion (12) 9 Great bat criticised, you'll
- hear (7)
- 10 Clementine's father taking Virginia to be a goddess (7) 11 Writer's tip considered? (4) 12 Feeble fellow to complain
- bitterly (5) 13 Following first at Good-wood, stable-boy is delight-
- ed (4) 16 Once, a five-year period of 1 Half of the fare from
- great drive and spirit (7) 17 Damper needed by trum-
- peter indoors, possibly? (7) 18 Irregular to show leadinglady, say, in unpleasant set- 3 Difficult to prove, the more
- ting (7)
 21 Rabbit on the cart that is
- upset (7) 23 Redundant potter? (4)

- 24 Pen of a poet (5)
- 1 Man's overcoat reflected his 25 Gin not quite enough for a revolutionary social gathering (4)
 - 28 Swiss resort packed, we hear (7) 29 Place in which to learn mu- 8
 - sic, originally, in various keys? (7) 30 The case for arms limitation 15 Turkey on a plate to con-(12)

DOWN

- Dublin, going by air? (7)
- 2 Total energy used up by Australian natives, running
- complex it is (7) 4 Guides admitting Mum? Crumbs! (7)

- 5 Small hotels popular with partners at table (4)
- German siren and the traditional knowledge that is left over (7)
- This harness pinch a bit? (7-6) Ticker-tape exponent mak-
- ing airdrop charge? (13) 14 Hearing difficulty (5) sume in banquet (5)
- 19 Badly lost around here in France? Ask! (7) 20 Abandon job and restart at
- 21 Musical work of tin soldiers at the double (7) 22 Great suffering of fellows in

Twickenham, perhaps (4,3)

the wrong? (7)
26 Piece of the sporran that is not matched (4)

27 Means of raising flag (4)

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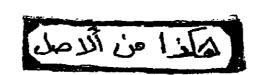
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